

**Do you know the shape of this curve?  
Can you prove it?**



In the mid-seventeenth century, it was generally thought that the shape of a hanging chain was a parabola. In a series of letters with Marin Mersenne, the 17-year-old Christiaan Huygens showed that the hanging chain did not in fact take the form of a parabola. **JOHN F. BUKOWSKI**, professor of mathematics, will investigate some of Huygens's geometrical arguments in detail, and we will discuss some of the general history of the problem.

**WHEN: November 5<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 pm**

**WHERE: Room W231**

**pizza - FREE - soda**

