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**Jacob Bernstein\***, [jbern@math.stanford.edu](mailto:jbern@math.stanford.edu), and **Christine Breiner**. *A Variational Characterization of the Catenoid*.

We will discuss how to use an old result of Osserman and Schiffer to give a variational characterization of the catenoid. Namely, we will show that subsets of the catenoid minimize area within a geometrically natural class of minimal annuli. (Received February 22, 2011)