## **CEPHED** Variable Stars

Light curve of Cepheid variable star V1 in galaxy M31

### Period 31.4 days Jul. '10 Aug. '10 Sep, '10 Oct. '10 Nov. '10 Dec. '10 Jan. '11

Brightness

#### Friday, March 25, 2016, 3:10 pm

Franklin Miller, Jr. Lecture Hall Hayes Hall 109

# Margaret Huff '16

In the late 16th century, people observed stars disappearing and reappearing in the sky over periods of months. Astronomers determined this phenomena to be a certain type of variable star called a Cepheid - these stars have an extremely regular cycle of pulsation that can be used to infer distances and is consistent with cosmological findings. This presentation focuses on the history of and physical processes that produce pulsation in stars.

#### Senior Exercise Talk in Physics