Dr. Rodolfo Montez Jr. began studying dying stars during an undergraduate research program in Chile. A Texas transplant to Rochester, NY, Rodolfo received Bachelor degrees in Physics and Astronomy from the University of Texas at Austin. He received the first astrophysics PhD from the new Astrophysical Sciences and Technology program at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Soon after completing his PhD, he was awarded the inaugural Rodger Doxsey Travel Prize to present his dissertation at the American Astronomical Society (AAS) Winter Meeting (2011). This prize is awarded to the top ten astronomy PhD dissertation abstracts submitted to the AAS based on scientific merit and impact.

RIT News article about Dr. Montez: http://www.rit.edu/news/story.php?id=47982

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