Marco Gonzalez

ANTH 235

Professor Wogan

January 21, 2017

During his lecture, Professor Gonzales said something like this, “while renewing for DACA, a long and frustrating process, students are reminded that they are still undocumented or in a more eye-opening way, ‘illegal’.” This quote is powerful because I feel as though it can relate to almost every undocumented student out there. More importantly, it reminds undocumented students that during this waiting period they are powerless and susceptible to laws that could change their lives forever. Lee’s anecdote is an example. Lee is a student that Professor Gonzales had the opportunity of working with. Professor Gonzales explained that Lee’s renewal process took three months and during these three long months, Lee was powerless and lived in constant fear of being deported. It was important that Professor Gonzales highlighted this issue because it raises awareness for these individuals under the DACA program.

Professor Gonzalez’s quote relates to an experience I witnessed last year. My sister, Perla is an OSU graduate who benefits from the DACA program. After she graduated she landed a job at Tec Labs. Five months in, her DACA permit expired and the process to renew it took more than two months. During these two months, her driver’s license expired. She did not possess valid identification and missed an important work trip to Puerto Rico; she lived in constant fear of getting deported. Finally, after successfully renewing her permit, my sister’s life returned to normal. To my sister, this whole experience was a reality check that reminded her of her status and her exclusion from society without DACA.