All the people in our Agile Scrum team have played an enormous role in the developing of this project for SNHU Travel website. Thanks to our Agile approach our team was able to thrive and everyone in our team knocked it out of the park this sprint because we were able to push out a working tangible product with a major shift from the stakeholders late into the sprint. Other non-Agile teams wouldn’t be able to say the same.

The Product Owner Came to us with some the idea to build a new tool for SNHU Travel. The stakeholders were excited because this new tool was going to make SNHU Travel competitive with other travel websites. Users wanted features like filtering by type of vacation, a top five vacations page, and filtering by price. These features would put SNHU Travel on par and above other travel websites.

The role of the Product Owner is to talk to the stakeholders and be the arbiter from the business end of things to the software end of things. The Product Owner plays a major role in properly informing the developers of what features they will be working on, and in turn conveys the progress the developers have made to the stakeholders. This first step is critical for the development of the project since it sets the developers on the right track and for the most part the rest of the team doesn’t communicate with the stakeholders, so it is imperative that the Product owner gets the correct vision for the project.

The next major step in our Agile scrum team is making test cases for our developers to work towards. These test cases are dependent on the user stories that we create from the information of the Product Owner. The testers and Product owner guide the developers to create the product that the stakeholders want. These test cases are detailed and designed to make sure that as we develop this SNHU Travel project, that we are creating the correct thing and that it is bug free. These specific test cases were designed to test for things like if the top 5 destinations page was working and displaying the correct information. Another test case was designed around curating vacations for the end user based on previous booked vacations.

Now that the testers in our Agile Scrum team have narrowed the developers focus, they will start developing an application specifically to meet those test cases. The developers implemented the features from the Product Owner and developed toward the test cases laid out by the testers. By this point we had a functioning version of the SNHU Travel site when we found out that we needed to switch gears. The Product Owner got word that the next big thing in travel is health and wellness, so we needed to pivot our efforts as a team to build the website toward health and wellness.

At this point, most waterfall development workflows would have been derailed heavily, but since we are an Agile Scrum team, we quickly adapted to the change. Fortunately for us, pretty much everything we had done was still useable and helped the website, but now we were supposed to focus on making a page for health and wellness. Our testers made the necessary test cases, and our developers developed toward those test cases. We were nearing the end of our sprint, so to have that quick of a turnaround with the remaining time we had left in our sprint is very satisfying and exciting.

Now as an Agile Scrum team, we had an effectively developed product that is targeted toward health and wellness whilst delivering on some of the features that the stakeholders originally wanted. Our team worked vigorously toward this goal together to make sure the demands of the Product Owner were met and due to our teamwork, we were able to get it done in a timely fashion. Scrum events like the Daily Scrum kept our team well informed and on track for what we had to do each given day.

Overall, I am extremely happy with the Agile Scrum approach for this project. The major pros of Agile are that they encourage teamwork and collaboration, while making us more dynamic as a team to take on changes as they come.

The waterfall approach for this project wouldn’t have made a major difference ultimately, due to the fact that we had to pivot so extremely toward the middle of our sprints. The waterfall approach would have still produced the same health and wellness page that we did in our agile team, however we had the benefit of having working and tested pages for other features that the stakeholders originally wanted which is a better value for those stakeholders.