**Sprint Review and Retrospective**

I firstly want to start off by saying we made some amazing progress in our first ever sprint team. As sort of the guinea pigs for Chada Tech when it comes to implementing and utilizing this agile methodology for development, we had a lot to prove, and I believe we did so. Christy really took on that role as Product Owner and made sure we had a constant connection with our client Amanda. When Brian emailed her about a few questions he needed answered while developing test cases, the wireframe and response was a great help in making sure we kept true to what Amanda wanted. Additionally, when Christy brought the news that Amanda wanted to focus on Detox/Wellness vacations, Brian and Nicole really stepped up to update what we were working on at that time, to make sure we met the goal before the end of the sprint. The de-prioritization of other stories to focus on the updates by Christy, really helped Nicole reach the updated goal, and Brian change around the test cases for Nicoles work. Speaking of which we need to give major kudos to Brian and Nicole for being as flexible as possible in this Agile development process, I know it could not have been easy coming from a Waterfall development background. With Agile we were able to take those updates in stride, and continue working through the sprint as to stopping, replanning, and then beginning a new. (Applying Roles)

When it comes to the user stories, Brian and Nicole really showed how comfortable they are in their fields as even on their first attempt general able to mold and modify their work to meet the needs instead of relying on the general, set outline provided at the start of the sprint. Although every one of us contributed, Christy was able to get the user stories prioritized in an order that made the most sense for Amanda, and with that Nicole was off. She was able to get most of the work don’t without a hitch. What we knew at the time was that SNHU Travel wanted to make sure to compete in the vacation marketplace with trendy niche vacation types. What we didn’t know was exactly what this meant. Even then, with an Agile approach we were able to get started, and with minimal planning the Sprint began. Nicole wrote her code, and Brian worked on the test cases, and we had most of the user stories that were requested completed already. Top 5 destinations, filter options, customized destinations, and then Christy reached out to the client to make sure we were on the right track. At this time Amanda clarified that they had run some polls and noticed that Detox, and Wellness vacations were on the rise, and that this would be an amazing opportunity to jump into this niche. With that update to our work, it absolutely changed our direction. With the updated direction Nicole got to work on updating the code, and Brian was able to update the test cases for this specific update as well. Making sure to include pass/fail measures such as “selecting multiple filters”, and “ordered top 5 destinations from 1-5”. Nicole made the changes and now we can see the Top 5 Destinations from a Detox/Wellness perspective, with their name, picture, and a brief description of each spot, so users can help determine which one they want to book the most. (User Stories/Interruptions)

Communication is what got us to this point, and I continue to be impressed with how quickly everyone has adopted agile. Christy when communicating with Amanda about updates, and how the progress was being made. Making sure to forward the changes in a prompt, and concise method. Brian when he reached out to Christy to get clarification on what test cases they wanted to do. Clarifying on things like “Should the list count down from 5 to 1 or start with #1?” for the countdown aspect, and “What kinds of column headers would you like to see for this option?” when it came to the filter’s user story. Christy then, as a true professional, sent him a quick response making sure to clarify exactly what Amanda wanted, and even included a wireframe to help Brian visualize what the team needed. Once Nicole had completed updating her code to match the updates, she promptly sent an email to Christy asking if there were any additional updates that Amanda had sent over, or if all the bases were covered. On top of this, our daily scrum meetings really came in handy with making sure we were always making progress. Sometimes a quick reflection on “what is blocking my progress” or “what did I do yesterday” is all that is needed to really refocus on the work we are doing. This, in addition to getting much needed support, face to face, really proved handy, as opposed to needing to document everything in a highly detailed manner since we wouldn’t be able to meet like in the Waterfall days. (Communication)

I want to take a moment to go over some of the new events we used in this Agile development process. When it came to Sprint planning, I believe we did a great job managing this, and keeping it relatively loose, to make the needed changes down the line. For our first one, this one went well. For our daily scrum, I see some improvement opportunities. I can manage these better, and make sure we adhere to our 15-minute time limit. A few times we went over, or started to veer into a deeper level meeting that would not qualify as a Daily Scrum. I will note some suggestions I have, however overall, I still believe that we did a good job here, just a few tweaks to get it where we really want it. I am writing the Sprint review and Retrospective now, as you have been reading and if you have gotten this far, I think you know where I’m going. Overall, the performance for the first attempt was fantastic, and the results speak for themselves. If you’re looking for a grade, it’s an A, or a 90/100 if you will. With the right attitudes, and minor adjustments, I think Agile development is the way forward. For SNHU Travel, we had a lot of pros. Agile allowed us to make adjustments on the fly, it allowed us to deliver a product we can show Amanda that meets her needs in a single sprint, we didn’t need to wait until the end and risk delivering a user test case that didn’t work, and above all else, it made effective use of our time. As for cons, I struggle to find some, however I can list a few that concern me. This was our first attempt, and so there were instances where some team members may not have wanted to attend the Daily Scrum and felt a bit of frustration being taken away from their work, I promise to make better use of that time. There may be a concern with a lack of experience. We are all learning as we go, and so, it while we did great here later Sprints where we might hit a rough patch, and the grade may be lower. Finally, I have some concerns about deadlines. Because the specific due dates are just general deadlines (end of sprint), if we are not motivated to complete the work on our own, those deadlines can be easily missed. My final verdict is that for SNHU Travel, Scrum-Agile is the best approach for the remainder of this project.