As the Scrum Master for the SNHU Travel project, I can confidently say that the Agile approach was a resounding success. From the start, I knew that this project was going to be different from anything I had done before, as I’ve only used Agile frameworks in pieces before. The example company, ChadaTech, had theoretically been using a waterfall development model, and I was excited to try emulating how I would switch to an agile approach in my own life. In this project, the team was tasked with not only developing the application but also piloting this new methodology within the company, much like my own situation!

One of the things that really stood out during this project was the importance of each role on the team. As the Scrum Master, there’s a strange feeling of taking a back-seat to the actual work and focusing more on orchestration and tracking. We had a single developer who was able to write code coupled with a single tester. We had a product owner who was had to predict the needs of the business and prioritize the user stories accordingly. And we had a team lead who was able to keep everyone on track and focused on our goals.

Speaking of goals, the Scrum-agile approach really helps to stay on track during the project. I was able to break down the development process into smaller, manageable chunks, thanks to the sprint planning sessions techniques. This allowed us to identify potential roadblocks early on and correct them before they became major issues. This means that when it comes time to push the product into production, we can release something that matches the requirements closer than if we just pushed it out then went back to revise later. The ability to change things as the project evolves is a huge advantage in the development process.

Of course, no project is without its challenges, and this one was no exception. The project was interrupted several times, and we had to adjust the approach accordingly. New user stories popped up and requirements got refined, including a random request to change things to show the top destinations first. Thanks to the flexibility of the Scrum-agile framework, I was able to adapt quickly and keep moving forward despite the interruptions. And when it came time to evaluate the progress, I was able to use the various Scrum events (such as sprint reviews and retrospectives) to identify areas for improvement and make adjustments accordingly.

In terms of organizational tools and Scrum-agile principles, I was really impressed with how well the virtual team worked together. We had a clear understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities, which helped to avoid confusion or overlapping work. And we were able to use the various Scrum events (such as sprint planning and daily stand-ups) to keep everyone on the same page. The brevity of the meetings was also unsurpassed ☺

One of the things that really stood out during this project was the importance of communication and collaboration. As a team, we were able to work together effectively thanks to their open lines of communication and our willingness to listen to each other's perspectives. I also want to point out the role diversity played in this. There wasn’t any group that was overrepresented and, even though everyone was virtual, I feel that’s important to capturing all user stories and all voices surrounding a product. And when it came time to present our work to the stakeholders, we were able to speak with one voice and present a united front thanks to the small team.

So, was the Scrum-agile approach the best choice for this project? Absolutely. Sure, there are times when a waterfall approach might be more appropriate, but for this project, with its tight deadlines and constantly changing requirements, an agile approach was the way to go. I'm excited to see how this experience will change my own future projects. The virtual aspects of this made things a little too perfect, but it gives me a goal to reach towards!