



## Events

### 4/08/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 5:30pm

The evidence is that Superperforming organizations outperform their industry peers by a margin of five to one. In this interactive and experiential session, participants will explore **servant leadership** along with a new set of rules for revolutionizing performance, redefining management and leadership, and bringing organizations to life. **Dave Guerra**, CEO of Corpus Optima presents.

Please register at:  
<http://aplnhouston20090408.eventbrite.com/>

### 5/13/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 5:30pm

**It's ALWAYS been the Problem.** Many software development companies do not have the luxury of having real-time access to actual customers. Instead these companies rely on their Product Management organizations to represent the needs of customers and the market. **Simon Orrell** will describe how the Pragmatic approach to Product Management gives the Product Owner and the entire team a collective understanding of the value of solving problems for markets and customers.

Please register at:  
<http://aplnhouston20090513.eventbrite.com/>

### 4/20-22/09 – Training Event: Agile Boot Camp: A Scrum Hybrid Approach

**APLN Houston Special:** Course director Steve Davis has graciously offered the group rate discount to any APLN Houston member. Please contact him directly at [davisbase@me.com](mailto:davisbase@me.com) to receive your discount.

An immersion workshop across the broader aspects of Agile Software Development including: the Methodologies, Principles and Practices including; Requirements, Planning, Development & Testing Practices, and

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Enterprise Scaling & Adoption Strategies. You'll leave understanding the broad dynamics of Agile software teams, why they work.

Please register at:  
<http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4710B/>

### 4/27 – 5/1/09 – PMI Houston Conference

Celebrating 25 years of project management excellence, PMI Houston presents their 2009 Conference & Expo: **Moving Project Management from Good to Great.** Held at the George R. Brown Conference Center, this year's program includes two Agile Project Management workshops prior to the conference and 8 Agile PM Break-Out sessions during the two day conference program (April 30-May 1).

Please see more details and register at:  
[www.pmi-houston.org](http://www.pmi-houston.org)

### 5/20 – 5/21/09 – Training Event: Collaborating & Communicating Agile Requirements

Project failures are often due to poor requirements gathering, analysis and planning. Agile requirements gathering, by moving detailed requirements closer to implementation, allows for rapid response to change.

Please register at:  
<http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/2580/>

## *Was Your Question Answered?*

We want to thank **Jennifer Brownson, John Fuqua, and Victor Certuche** for an enlightening and lively evening at last month's Agile Practitioners Panel Discussion.



As expected we got an overwhelming number of questions from the audience and the discussion continues on our new LinkedIn Group.

To participate:



Search the LinkedIn group directory for **APLN Houston**.

## *Book-of-the-Month*

### **Agile Portfolio Management** – Jochen Krebs

Senior and executive level managers not experienced with agile should get a lot of value out of the first section, which covers at a high level, a review of agile software development, how agile ties back to project management, and a justification for the role of agile in an organization. The second section introduces Portfolio Management. No matter what the reader's level of expertise with agile software development, they should walk away with something valuable from this section. I especially liked Chapter 6 on Return on Investment and Chapter 7 on Project Portfolio Management. Chapter 6 will give the reader an idea of how short iterations can quickly build value for the organization and in many cases, return investment dollars much sooner than projects with longer release cycles. Chapter 7 discusses what Jochen calls the "project funnel"

for evaluating projects in the pipeline; as well as, the bubble diagram, which readers who are familiar with IBM's Rational Portfolio Manager might recognize. The third section introduces the concept of Portfolio Management using Scrum; as well as, how agile software development impacts the Project Management Organization (PMO). I think the Portfolio Management using Scrum concept is a nice attempt at tying Portfolio Management back to a familiar and popular agile framework such as Scrum. Overall Jochen's book provides a very good introduction to Agile Portfolio Management, a topic that is rarely addressed in the agile community.

Jochen Krebs is also presenting at the PMI Houston Conference & Expo on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:30-11:30am. Don't miss this chance to meet and talk with him.

-Alan Bustamante

## *Adventures in distributed 'Agile'*

The most successful implementations of offshore agile development are those where most of the team is co-located offshore. As long as the developers and testers are co-located and have reasonably continuous access to the Product Owner/domain expert, there is a chance of success. With that in mind there are still many factors which should be considered when contemplating utilizing off-shore development teams in a distributed agile environment.

Read more at:

<http://snowdolphin.wordpress.com/2009/02/16/adventures-in-distributed-agile/>

-Simon Orrell

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*Life is not about waiting for the storms to pass...  
it's about learning how to dance in the rain.*  
-anonymous

### **APLN Houston Leadership Team**

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