



Special Announcement

As you have hopefully heard **APLN Houston is Moving** to a new meeting venue in July at Sysco Corporation, 1390 Enclave Parkway. To avoid conflicts with PMI events, APLN meetings will now be the third Thursday of the month.

With this move we are now able to expand our format to include more networking opportunity. **Starting Thursday, July 16th please join us at 6:00pm at Sysco.**
(No APLN meeting the 2nd Wed in July.)

Events

7/16/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Please Note our New Location and Start Time!

Risk and Risk Management – Theory and Practice



Join **Todd Little** as he introduces a number of theories, tools and practices surrounding risk and risk management. He will share some practical experience using these techniques and approaches and how

they fit in with agile development, explaining what works and what does not based on his experience and that of his colleagues.

Please register at:
<http://aplnhouston20090716.eventbrite.com/>

6/29-6/30/09 User Stories - Driving Requirements with Agility – Austin, TX

Eliciting and managing project requirements is often challenging for product owners and development teams. The course covers in detail a proven Agile Method of managing requirements – the User Story. Attendees completing this course will be ready to introduce or refine their use of User Stories as an excellent means of managing requirements with agility.

For more information and registration visit:
http://www.agileu.org/course_details.jsp?courseid=378&schid=740

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8/20/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Managing the Human Dynamics of Change



Join **Don Minnick** of Interpersonal Skills Laboratory to learn how to address the natural resistance to change and the type of leadership companies need to successfully manage any change initiative.

Each of us, at one time or another, has wrestled unsuccessfully with some change initiative. We're experienced at the technology of change. Why then does research show that more than half of all change initiatives fail?

Please register at:
<http://aplnhouston20090820.eventbrite.com/>

9/17/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Join us for our 1 Year Birthday Bash!

The Dancing Agile Elephant Meets Collaborative Leadership

Join **Pollana Pixton**, Principal at Accelinnova and **Sue McKinney**, VP of Development Transformation at IBM as they discuss the enterprise wide adoption of agile practices at IBM.

Please register at:
<http://aplnhouston20090917.eventbrite.com/>



July 2009 Newsletter

7/20-7/21/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX

Sanjiv is repeating his CSM training in Houston. You will learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum, differences between agile processes and traditional "waterfall" methodologies, and how to build a roadmap for adopting Agile at your organization. Participants will learn how to lead development teams towards agile operations by: managing product backlogs, planning releases and sprints, tracking and reporting progress, and conducting retrospectives. On completion, participants are registered as Certified ScrumMasters, (CSMs), which includes a one-year membership in the Scrum Alliance.

Use discount code 'APLN' (no quotes) to get a 20% discount on registration at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm.

7/29-7/31/09 Agile Boot Camp: A Scrum Hybrid Approach – Austin, TX

An immersion workshop across the broader aspects of Agile Software Development including: the Methodologies, Principles and Practices including; Requirements, Planning, Development & Testing Practices, and Enterprise Scaling & Adoption Strategies. You'll leave understanding the broad dynamics of Agile software teams, why they work so well, and gain real-world experience and guidance on how to adopt Agility within your teams

Use discount code 'VersionOne' (no quotes) to get a 20% discount on registration at <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4400/index.html>

8/5-8/7/09 – Practical Product Management – Houston, TX

Practical Product Management fully explores the role of technology product management with tools and processes designed to bring products to market more efficiently and effectively. Emphasizing market-driven techniques, this seminar analyzes critical product management and marketing activities in detail using the Pragmatic Marketing Framework. Offering tips for how to be effective at the strategic elements and how to manage multiple tactical tasks

http://seminars.pragmaticmarketing.com/schedule_by_date.asp

8/11-8/12/09 – ASPE Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Learn, understand and execute on the three overarching principles behind Scrum: iterative development, self-management, and visibility. After successfully completing this class, participants will be registered with the Scrum Alliance (sm) as Certified Scrum Masters.

Collaborating & Communicating Agile Requirements - ASPE 8/24-8/25 - Austin, TX 8/17-8/20 Virtual

Learn to save time and develop better software that really meets users' needs.

Use discount code 'VersionOne' (no quotes) to get a 20% discount on registration at <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4400/index.html>

Webinars

Software Best Practices Webinars Series
For registration visit The IT Metrics and Productivity Institute (www.itmpi.org/events) or CAI (www.compaid.com)

Selling Agile: How to Get Buy-in from Your Teams, Customers, and Managers 6/17/09 11:00am-12:30pm EDT Presented By Michele Sliger

Are you excited by the potential of agile software development, but find that those around you are a bit reticent? In this webinar, Michele Sliger, agile consultant and co-author of "The Software Project Manager's Bridge to Agility," will look at how to best sell and promote agile to your teams, your management, your customers, and others within your organization.

Lean Six Sigma, CMMI, and Agile Methods: Can They Co-Exist? 8/19/09 11:00am-12:30pm EDT Presented By Gary Gack

Many organizations are challenged with integrating and leveraging industry standards and best practices, including Lean Six Sigma, Agile, PMBoK, ITIL, and CMMI. In this webinar with Gary Gack, each of these process areas will be reviewed and connections between Lean Six Sigma and CMMI Goals and Practices will be examined. A case study will be presented.

6/29-8/3/09- Second offering of Lean On-Line Course by Alan Shalloway

If you want to learn more about Lean or if you are having troubles getting Scrum to scale, you may find these of interest.

Net Objectives is offering their Lean-Online Course again. This includes a CD with all of the sessions (sent to you after the course) plus additional material that will be sent to you after the course. More and more people are recognizing that an understanding of Lean principles is essential if you want to make your enterprise agile. Scaling Agility can be difficult. It is important to start out with a vision for the entire organization that you want to become more effective. Lean provides this understanding.

Recent Blogs and a podcast by Alan Shalloway

Since the Lean Kanban conference in Miami, Alan has had a significant number of insights into how to incorporate Lean into Agile methods as well as increased understanding of why Scrum teams have difficulties. Many of these are discussed on the blog page.

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=22104801&msgid=332824&act=U69E&c=262625&admin=0&destination=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.netobjectives.com%2Fblog%2F>

- What is the Difference Between First Generation Agile (XP/Scrum) and Lean/Kanban?
- Redefining Lean (a podcast)
- Challenging Why (not if) Scrum Fails
- Lean Kanban 2009 – Wow!

Don't Miss Out – Make Your Voice Heard Too!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today!



Search the LinkedIn group directory for APLN Houston.

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"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

-- Albert Einstein

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Collaborative Leadership: A Secret to Agile Success

For a preview of one of our September speakers watch **Pollyanna Pixton's** keynote address to the **2008 Agile Development Practices Conference**.

When members of a development project are asked to become a self-directed agile team, some claim that leadership and leaders are obsolete. Or, is a different type of leadership exactly what agile teams need to truly flourish? Whether you are a senior manager, product owner, customer, ScrumMaster, or an individual contributor, **Pollyanna Pixton's** collaborative principles will empower you and everyone on your team to become better leaders and deliver the business value that stakeholders deserve.

<http://www.stickyminds.com/Media/Video/Detail.aspx?WebPage=128>



Agile2009 Conference

Making Agile Real

Agile 2009 (Aug 24-28) will be an exciting international conference about techniques and technologies, attitudes and policies, research and first-hand experience, from both the management and technical sides of agile software development. The agile approach focuses on delivering business value early in the project lifetime and being able to incorporate emergent requirements. It accentuates the use of rich, informal communication channels and frequent delivery of running, tested systems, while attending to the human component of software development.

For more details and registration visit:

<http://agile2009.agilealliance.org/>

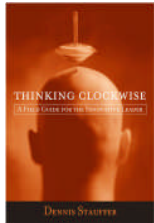
It's ALWAYS Been the Problem

To read more about a Pragmatic approach to Product Management see **Simon Orrell's** blog: <http://snowdolphin.wordpress.com/>

Also look for Simon at the Agile 2009 Conference in Chicago.

Book-of-the-Month

Thinking Clockwise – A Field Guide for the Innovative Leader by Dennis Stauffer



This thin but profoundly thought provoking handbook uses a “field guide” format instead of conventional footnotes to support the main intent – innovative leadership. (If you’ve ever used a field guide such as for flowers or birds, you will notice the key tips – field notes - that help you identify what you are observing.) The core message is that we need to shift from the knowledge feedback approach into an insight feedback loop in order to develop innovation.

Stauffer uses the Clockwise metaphor to denote the feedback loop that comes with insight, in contrast with the Counterclockwise feedback loop that symbolizes the way we typically use knowledge as a leader or decision maker. He highlights that negative feedback in a knowledge loop is deemed failure, while in a Clockwise insight loop it provides learning. On the positive feedback side, the knowledge loop only offers confirmation, while in the insight loop it leads to discovery.

After explaining the differences between the two feedback loops, Stauffer illustrates both of them with attributes and values to identify when you are using either mechanism. The second section of the book deals with fostering innovative leadership by applying the Clockwise principles described in the first section. As one of the book’s field notes points out:

“The time honored practice of management by exception can severely undermine trust. If employees only get attention when they do something wrong, they will stop taking risks or volunteering information.”

- Ron Whitebread

New APLN Member Services

Pearson Education User Group Program!



APLN Houston is proud to announce that we are now a member of the **Pearson Education User Group Program!** This program offers great discounts, contests,

and a common place to find resources and information about the latest tools and materials available on key technology topics.

All APLN Houston members will receive **up to 35% off** every purchase on [informIT.com](http://informit.com) and their partner imprint sites (ciscopress.com and ibmpressbooks.com)!

For registration instructions visit: <http://aplnhouston.org/member-specials/>

APLNH is currently looking into a similar program with O’Reilly. Contact the leadership team if you have other programs to recommend.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

- ❖ Newsletter Contributors
 - Articles on real-world agile experiences
 - Book reviews
 - Blog references
- ❖ Event coordinators
 - Program coordination
 - Speaker recruitment
 - Event announcements
 - Check in meeting attendees
 - Traffic control at Sysco.
- ❖ Webmaster
 - Content management

If these sound interesting or if you have other talents you want to share come help APLNH grow. Contact a member of the leadership team.

APLN Houston Leadership Team

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