



Giovanni Legorano

Milan Correspondent Dow Jones Newswires and the Wall Street Journal (PG 2008)

Lorna on Giovanni: While many students waste time discussing what type of job in journalism they don't want, Giovanni was focused on jobs that were available from the moment I said in class that it is essential to do so. This meant that virtually immediately after he graduated he was working as a reporter in London, working his way from a financial website to Dow Jones (and a recent relocation to Milan).

Giovanni arrived with a wonderfully open mind, ready to explore whether his dream of being a journalist was feasible. So of course it was possible to show him how to make the dream come true. In contrast to 99.9% of students with a financial background, he was delighted that his financial and management consultancy background gave him the way in to journalism. When he told me he admired the Guardian's business commentator Nils Pratley, I was excited for two reasons: I love it when students introduce ME to a journalist or publication I haven't read, and because far from equating financial journalism with boredom (as sadly many students do) he enjoyed consuming it.

This attitude is in fact what made it easy to develop his non-financial writing. I still remember Giovanni's food reviews, especially the one on eating frites in Brussels.

Giovanni on Lorna: Lorna taught me to be much more critical of my copy and to enjoy writing even more. During tutorials she was always able to point out things that I could have done better in terms of the structure of a story, the style I was writing in and more appropriate terms to use.

Coming from an economic background, I would have never thought I was going to be able to write a restaurant or film review, but she taught me how to do it and, most of all, to really enjoy it, expanding my professional horizons.

One thing I will always miss is the interest she showed in reading my stories, the questions she asked me about the people I interviewed and the genuine curiosity that my writing aroused in her. I love to think that all my readers are like Lorna!

Giovanni's advice for Italians: London is the perfect place for non-native English speakers to look for a job in journalism WHY?, especially for Italians as they WE? tend to have a strong determination due to the chronic nepotism that permeates Italy's work environment. In London you'll find a fairly meritocratic market where everybody is given a chance. Employers often ask you to sit a test if they call you for an interview, so try to prepare for that. It goes without saying that the level of your written English needs to be very high. No grammar or spelling mistakes! And no convoluted sentences! The Italian and English journalistic styles are quite different, so be sure you know how to write a proper story in English. In London there are loads of trade press publications, which are normally a good place to start, and if you have previous professional experience, say in IT, then look for computer magazines and apply there. This doesn't mean that in the future you won't be able to have a career reporting on politics or something else. The most important thing is to find

the first job, the rest will come if you are persistent, follow your editor's advice and work every single day to improve!