In the shadow of Ben-Gurion University's halls and lecture rooms, we are often reminded of the potential that each student brings with them. Today, it is with an immeasurable weight in our hearts that we gather to remember and honor one such brilliant gem, Shahak Madar.

From the moment Shahak joined the Department of Tourism and Leisure Management, it became unmistakably evident that he wasn't just another student. With a twinkle in his eye and a contagious zest for life, he embarked on his academic journey with us, proving to be a remarkable blend of intellect and warmth. A resident of Dimona, he had recently completed his first year in tourism and hotel management. His commitment to his studies mirrored his passion for life.

Every educator dreams of students like Shahak – intelligent, driven, with a heart big enough to encompass the world. He embodied what it means to be both a student of the world and its ardent admirer. His love for people, his country, and the global community was evident in every conversation, every journey he undertook, and every plan he made for the future.

In Shahak, we witnessed a spirit so vibrant that every room he entered radiated with his presence. The infectious laughter, the stories of his travels, and his innate ability to make everyone feel loved made him the life of every gathering. Unfortunately, it was this same spirit that led him to the ill-fated party on that devastating Saturday night.

The profound pain we feel is a testament to the void left by Shahak. To his family, we cannot possibly fathom the depth of your anguish, but please know that as a department, we stand by you, united in grief. You are not alone in this journey of mourning and remembrance.

While no words can truly capture the essence of who Shahak was, we can promise this: his legacy will forever be woven into the fabric of our department. As we endeavor to shape future leaders in tourism and leisure, Shahak's memory will be a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the boundless potential each life holds and the responsibility we share in nurturing it.

In our hearts, in our stories, and in every corridor of our beloved university, Shahak's spirit will live on.

With deepest sympathy and love,

The faculty and students of the Department of Tourism and Leisure Management.