Max was passionate about film, art, and music. In 2006, he graduated from the Harvard-Westlake School, where he was captain of the varsity lacrosse team. In 2010, he graduated from the Gallatin School at New York University and went to work as an executive assistant at Creative Artists Agency. Later, he became an associate at OddLot Entertainment, a Los Angeles-based motion picture production company. In August 2013, at the age of 25, Max died by suicide.

To honor Max’s memory and to reduce the toll of depression, Laurie Gordon established the Max Gray Fund for Treatment of Mood Disorders at the Jane and Terry Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA in 2014. To date, almost $1-million has been raised thanks to the generosity of the Gray and Gordon families and friends. This support has enabled the Semel Institute to recruit and train nine psychiatry and postdoctoral psychology fellows, three of whom have been hired by UCLA; expand its mood disorders clinics and increase their capacity to diagnose and treat patients according to the most up-to-date methods; and conduct innovative research in mood disorders.

The Adult Mood Disorders Clinic at the Semel Institute provides clinical evaluations and ongoing treatment for patients with depression and bipolar disorder. The Child and Adolescent Mood Disorders Clinic offers diagnostic evaluations, second opinion consultations, and short-term pharmacological and psychosocial treatments for youth with significant and impairing mood disorders, as well as resources for their families. Since the inception of the Max Gray Fund, the Adult Mood Disorders Clinic has increased its capacity to 304 new patients and an additional 998 sessions. The Child and Adolescent Mood Disorders Clinic, which is smaller and opened more recently, is now able to accept 29 new patients and offer an additional 152 appointments. Philanthropy has been instrumental in enabling both clinics to increase new patient intake by approximately 30 percent.

As a result of the Max Gray Fund, more patients and families are receiving appropriate and effective care. More young doctors are being trained in the most advanced methods of treating these patients. More lives are being saved.

Please consider supporting the Max Gray Fund:
Online: www.giving.ucla.edu/MaxGrayFund
Check: made payable to The UCLA Foundation with “Max Gray Fund” in the memo line, mailed to Dorin Esfahani, UCLA Health Sciences Development, 10945 Le Conte Ave., Suite 3132, Los Angeles, CA 90095

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