Go To The Head Of The Glass  by Ucaoimhu

As befits this occasion, I hereby present you with . . . a graduated cylinder! In this cylindrical grid:

(1) The “rows” are actually rings, with the right end connecting back again to the left end. The “Around” answer(s) for each ring will fill the entire ring; since (as is usual with such cylinders) no vertical markings appear, just horizontal, it is up to you to determine where in each ring to start entering the answer(s).

(2) To further reduce the number of vertical marks, (a) in six Down clues, please remove an extraneous vertical mark from the definition part before solving, and (b) for six other clues, please remove all vertical marks from the answer before entering it in the grid. To help you with (b), the remaining six Down clues each contain an extraneous word (to be removed before solving) cluing one of the modified grid entries.

(3) Finally, to reflect the etymology of “graduated,” the completed grid will contain a series of steps. Specifically, starting in the “middle” of ring A (with a word befitting this party) and continuing stairwise upwards to ring K (with a word befitting this topmost position) is a word ladder (a series of words, each differing by one letter from the previous one). Be careful as you climb it, though; there are three steps that do not belong, which can be combined into two items that can make marks on glass. The sequence of “new” letters appearing in the ladder, bottom to top, will tell you what (more prosaically) these items are; if you modify this sequence as per (2), it will instead describe the honoree of this puzzle.

AROUND
K1. Fry ought to get chewy
K2. Impressionist and mother profit
J1. Ms. Croft captures very young insect
J2. Sal in Rebel Without a Cause and Moe in Horsing Around
I1. Program a can opener to sound like some horses
H1. “Headgear for bishops in power” is wrong-sounding
H2. Horse leaves the room for some time
G. Wild emu met Coco bicycling into work, perhaps
F1. Aye, Nancy embraces a Chinese city
F2. “Bush,” rewritten to get longer, finally!
E1. Air channel blocked by the front of the instrument
E2. Golden boy Welles in Citizen Kane
D1. Department store with Lost Ark™
D2. Unhealthy quartet of couples loudly cheer
C. Herb skiers abused in highlands of Massachusetts
B1. Code word for a furry alien adult
B2. Outspoken tease worked on a nonpermanent basis
A1. Initially exclaim, very loudly, “Summer in Paris is decadent”
A2. Company and pound’s perverse political alliance

DOWN
1. Wee man from Loire discussed Alaskan city
2. Drippy person who venerates the Show Me State?
3. Wings one singer coated with beer
4. Revenuers almost wipe out Times
5. Reportedly hit Key West from S. Formosa’s largest city
6. Wild oxen initially hurt poet Khayyam
7. Guys at middle of maximally crude list
8. Steals antimony, record or flip-flops
9. Let’s resume playing with Mr. Curry, a German (2 wds.)
10. 2009 Michelle Pfeiffer film set . . . er, in Chicago
11. Dog that is with physicist Marie
12. Last 80% of Hunt is nattier
13. Six letters held back by Claire Forlani, pertaining to a non-feast weekday
14. Revolutionary Cuban medicine is found within nine-hundred-and-sixty-thousandth of a minute (abbr.)
15. James nakedly embraces the ultimate in rubbish, Alias (2 wds.)
16. Claim sauce on pork would be so fine after 3 in Bari
17. Test for future Bari workers involved salt (abbr.)
18. What you call someone that Cain hurt: “Abel”