

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) August 22, 2003

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	001-16583	No. 58-2632672
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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1170 Peachtree Street, NE Suite 2400, Atlanta, GA	30309
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(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (404) 853-1400

None

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. Other Events.

Attached hereto is a press release issued by Acuity Brands, Inc. (the "Registrant") on August 22, 2003. A copy of the press release is filed herewith as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(a) Financial Statements of Businesses Acquired.

None.

(b) Pro Forma Financial Information.

None.

(c) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is filed herewith:

EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION
99.1	Press Release, issued by Registrant on August 22, 2003.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: August 25, 2003

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

BY:

Helen D. Haines
Vice President and Secretary

Exhibit 99.1

Company Contact:
Helen Haines
Acuity Brands, Inc.
(404) 853-1407

ACUITY BRANDS ANNOUNCES ELECTION OF
JAY M. DAVIS TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ATLANTA, August 22, 2003 - Acuity Brands, Inc. (NYSE: AYI) announced today the election of Jay M. Davis to the Company's Board of Directors effective as of September 1, 2003. This addition to the Acuity Brands Board brings the total number of Directors to ten.

Jay Davis is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Distributing Company, Inc. (NDC), the third largest U.S. distributor of alcoholic beverages, primarily wine and spirits. NDC is privately held and headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, with operations throughout the southeastern United States. Davis is affiliated with a number of industry organizations, including the Remy Amerique Advisory Board, the Brown-Forman Partnership Council, and the Robert Mondavi Advisory Council.

Davis, a founder of the Alfred and Adele Davis Academy, supports numerous charities in the community. He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the University of Georgia Foundation and the President's Club for the University of Georgia.

James S. Balloun, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, said, "Jay Davis is a proven leader in business and the community. His considerable experience as head of a large distribution network will benefit our company. I am pleased with Jay's addition as a Director, which further strengthens the Acuity Brands Board."

Acuity Brands, Inc., with fiscal year 2002 sales of approximately \$2.0 billion, is comprised of Acuity Lighting Group and Acuity Specialty Products Group. Acuity Lighting Group is the world's leading lighting fixture manufacturer and includes brands such as Lithonia(R), Holophane(R), Peerless(R), Hydrel(R), and American Electric Lighting(R). Acuity Specialty Products Group is a leading provider of specialty chemicals and includes brands such as Zep(R), Enforcer(R), and Selig Industries(TM). Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, Acuity Brands employs approximately 12,000 people and has operations throughout North America and in Europe and Asia.