

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) March 12, 2003  
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ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

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(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  
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None

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

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ITEM 5. Other Events.

Attached hereto is a press release issued by Acuity Brands, Inc. (the "Registrant") on March 12, 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 March 12, 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: March 12, 2003

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

BY: /s/ Helen D. Haines

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Helen D. Haines  
Vice President and Secretary

Company Contact:  
Karen Holcom  
Acuity Brands, Inc.  
404-853-1437

ACUITY BRANDS ANNOUNCES  
ELECTION OF ROBERT F. MCCULLOUGH  
TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ATLANTA, March 12, 2003 -- Acuity Brands, Inc. (NYSE: AYI) announced today the election of Robert F. (Bob) McCullough to the company's Board of Directors effective immediately. This addition to the Acuity Brands Board brings the total number of Directors to nine.

McCullough, a Certified Public Accountant, serves as the Chief Financial Officer and as a Board member of AMVESCAP PLC, a leading independent global investment management firm. AMVESCAP operates under the AIM, INVESCO, and Atlantic Trust brands and has approximately \$335 billion in assets under its management.

Prior to joining AMVESCAP, McCullough had a distinguished career that spanned over 30 years with the accounting firm Arthur Andersen LLP. Upon graduating from the University of Texas in 1964, McCullough joined Andersen's audit staff in New York City where he ultimately held various positions as a partner. He most recently served as the managing partner for Andersen's Atlanta practice from 1987 until 1996, at which time he elected retirement to join AMVESCAP. McCullough is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of CPAs.

James S. Balloun, Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer of Acuity Brands, said, "With the addition of Bob McCullough as a Director, we are further strengthening the level of financial expertise of our Board. His financial background aside, Bob's tremendous experience and civic responsibility will make him a valuable asset to our Board under any circumstances. We are pleased that he has agreed to serve as a Director of Acuity Brands."

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, 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 11,800 people and has operations throughout North America and in Europe.