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FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

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| | | | or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------|--|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| 1 | dress of Reporting | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ACUITY BRANDS INC [AYI] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | |
| HARNEL | <u>F GORDON</u> | <u>D</u> | [] | X | Director | 10% Owner | | | |
| | (First) Y BRANDS, IN | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/02/2015 | | Officer (give title below) | Other (specify below) | | | |
| 1170 PEACH | TTREE STREET | Г, NE SUITE 2300 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Indiv Line) | vidual or Joint/Group Fil | ing (Check Applicable | | | |
| (Street) ATLANTA | GA | 30309 | | X | Form filed by One Re Form filed by More th Person | | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | | | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | Transaction Code (Instr. | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | Securities Beneficially | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | (1130.4) |

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transa Code (8) | | of | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|-----|-----|--|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |
| Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | (2) | 02/02/2015 | | A | | 164 | | (1) | (3) | Common Stock | 164 | \$152.34 | 12,231 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Stock Units are accrued under the Issuer's Nonemployee Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan (formerly known as the Nonemployee Directors' Stock Unit Plan) and are payable in shares upon retirement in either lump sum or five annual installments. Accruals include required and elective deferral of director fees. During the Reporting Period, fees paid to the Reporting Person resulted in an increase in the number of units held.

2. 1-for-1

3. Stock Units issued pursuant to the Plan are payable in common shares upon retirement in either a lump sum or five annual installments.

Remarks:

Gordon D. Harnett

** Signature of Reporting Person

02/03/2015 Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.