



Association of College Unions International

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ACUI Collegiate 9-Ball Championships start today

Hosted by the Illinois State University Bone Student Center and Billiards and Bowling Center

July 21, 2009 (**Bloomington, Ill.**) — The Association of College Unions International Collegiate 9-Ball Championships with presenting sponsor Ozone Billiards kicks off the tournament today with its first two rounds of competition. Fifty-two students representing 41 colleges, universities, and two-year institutions have qualified at either the regional competition or at one of two independent qualifying events. Illinois State University in Normal, Ill., is hosting the combined 2009 BEF-ACUI Junior & Collegiate 9-Ball Championships this week with college athletes competing July 21–23 and junior competition starting on July 23.

The ACUI collegiate billiards championship has existed since 1937. Lars Vardaman of Southern Illinois University–Edwardsville is back in his final year of eligibility and could become the first four-time winner of the men’s division championship. The women’s division record holder, Eleanor Callado, is now the ACUI tournament director and works on the San Francisco State University campus. Callado won the title four times in five years while she was a student.

The site for the 2009 ACUI 9-Ball Championship, Illinois State University, serves as host for the multiday tournament, the awards banquet, and player dining. The city of Bloomington/Normal accommodates players and their families for meals and hotel rooms. If you would like more information about how to compete in or host this event in future, contact Michelle Smith at mjsmith1@acui.org or visit the ACUI website, www.acui.org/programs/student.

Betsy Sundholm, ACUI’s Recreation and Leisure Activities Program Team leader from the University of Michigan, views this tournament as “the premiere intercollegiate cue sport tournament in the world. Past ACUI champions include Nick Varner and Max Eberle, who are now top players on the professional circuit.”

The sport is more than learning good fundamentals of the game, straight alignment, a level cue, and follow-through; mental stamina, finesse, and personal discipline are also critical. Each of these things is key to a student’s success on the tables as well as in the classroom.

“Student learning and community building are at our core as an organization,” said ACUI Executive Director Marsha Herman-Betzen. “These billiards tournaments are among our most historic competitive events, and we are proud to continue that tradition as the sport grows.”

Founded in 1914, ACUI is a nonprofit educational organization that brings together college union and student activities professionals from hundreds of schools in seven countries. Its members work on urban and rural campuses, in two-year and four-year institutions, and at large and small schools. They are students and administrators whose mission is to build campus community. ACUI enriches them all through education, advocacy, and the delivery of services.

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