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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Form NSAR-B
March 02, 2009

PAGE 1
000 B000000 12/31/2008
000 C000000 0001385763
000 D000000 N
000 E000000 NF
000 F000000 Y
000 G000000 N
000 H000000 N
000 I000000 6.1
000 J000000 A
001 A000000 NUVEEN CORE EQUITY ALPHA FUND
001 B000000 811-220003
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002 A000000 333 WEST WACKER DRIVE
002 B000000 CHICAGO
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002 D010000 60606
002 D020000 1286
003 000000 Y
004 000000 N
005 000000 N
006 000000 N
007 A000000 N
007 B000000 0
007 C010100 1
007 C010200 2
007 C010300 3
007 C010400 4
007 C010500 5
007 C010600 6
007 C010700 7
007 C010800 8
007 C010900 9
007 C011000 10
008 A000001 NUVEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT
008 B000001 A
008 C000001 801-14147
008 D010001 CHICAGO
008 D020001 IL
008 D030001 60606
008 D040001 1286
008 A000002 ENHANCED INVESTMENT TECHNOLOGIES (INTECH)
008 B000002 A
008 C000002 801-60987
008 D010002 PALM BEACH GARDENS
008 D020002 FL
008 D030002 33410
012 A000001 EQUISERVE INC.
012 B000001 84-05925
012 C010001 PROVIDENCE
012 C020001 RI
012 C030001 02940
PAGE 2
013 A000001 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP
013 B010001 CHICAGO
013 B020001 IL
013 B030001 60606
014 A000001 NUVEEN INVESTMENTS, LLC
014 B000001 8-13464

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015 A000001 STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY
015 B000001 C
015 C010001 BOSTON
015 C020001 MA
015 C030001 02110
015 E010001 X
018 000000 Y
019 A000000 Y
019 B000000 192
019 C000000 NUVEENFUND
020 A000001 DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC
020 B000001 13-2730828
020 C000001 26
020 A000002 CREDIT SUISSE
020 B000002 13-5659485
020 C000002 24
020 A000003 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL
020 B000003 75-1565705
020 C000003 24
020 A000004 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES
020 B000004 13-2975865
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020 B000005 13-3443395
020 C000005 23
020 A000006 JEFFERIES & CO
020 B000006 95-2622900
020 C000006 21
020 A000007 WEEDEN + CO
020 B000007 13-3364318
020 C000007 14
020 A000008 GUZMAN & CO
020 B000008 59-2764363
020 C000008 13
020 A000009 BNY
020 B000009 13-3989198
020 C000009 9
020 A000010 GOLDMAN SACHS
020 B000010 13-5108880
020 C000010 7
021 000000 202
022 A000001 JEFFERIES & CO
022 B000001 95-2622900
022 C000001 29943
022 D000001 31156

PAGE 3

022 A000002 DEUTSCHE BANK
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022 A000004 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL
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022 C000004 23246
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022 A000005 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES
022 B000005 13-2975865
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022 D000005 22192

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022	A000006	INSTINET CORP	
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022	D000006	22707	
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054 B000000 N
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 054 N000000 N
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 055 A000000 N
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 055 B000000 N
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070	D020000	N	
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072	AA000000		0

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072BB000000	35310
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072CC020000	58085
072DD010000	24491
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074 T000000	191180
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074 V010000	11.74
074 V020000	0.00
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074 Y000000	190739
075 A000000	0
075 B000000	256708
076 000000	9.61
077 A000000	Y
077 B000000	Y
078 000000	N
080 A000000	CHUBB GROUP OF INSURANCE COMPANIES
	PAGE 9
080 B000000	AIG, GREAT AMERICAN, ST. PAUL & CNA
080 C000000	110000
081 A000000	Y
081 B000000	191
082 A000000	N
082 B000000	0
083 A000000	N
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084 B000000	0
085 A000000	Y
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086 A010000	0
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086	B010000	155
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086	D010000	0
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087	A020000	67090X107
087	A030000	JCE
088	A000000	N
088	B000000	N
088	C000000	N
088	D000000	N
SIGNATURE	STEPHEN D. FOY	
TITLE	V.P. & CONTROLLER	