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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  
001 C000000 3129178200  
002 A000000 333 WEST WACKER DRIVE  
002 B000000 CHICAGO  
002 C000000 IL  
002 D010000 60606  
002 D020000 1286  
003 000000 Y  
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007 A000000 N  
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007 C010100 1  
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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  
020 C000004 24  
020 A000005 INSTINET CORP  
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

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022 A000002 DEUTSCHE BANK  
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022 C000004 23246  
022 D000004 25524  
022 A000005 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES  
022 B000005 13-2975865  
022 C000005 25087  
022 D000005 22192

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022	A000006	INSTINET CORP	
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022	D000006	22707	
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022	D000008	11572	
022	A000009	LYNCH, JONES & RYAN	
022	B000009	13-3356934	
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022	B000010	13-5674085	
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054 B000000 N  
054 C000000 N  
054 D000000 N  
054 E000000 N  
054 F000000 N  
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054 H000000 Y  
054 I000000 N  
054 J000000 Y  
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054 L000000 N  
054 M000000 Y  
054 N000000 N  
054 O000000 Y  
055 A000000 N  
PAGE 6  
055 B000000 N  
056 000000 Y  
057 000000 N  
058 A000000 N  
059 000000 Y  
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062 A000000 N  
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069 000000 N  
070 A010000 Y  
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070 B010000 Y  
070 B020000 Y  
070 C010000 Y  
070 C020000 N  
070 D010000 N

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070	D020000	N	
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070	O020000	N	
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072	W000000		103
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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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073 A010000	1.4959
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074 T000000	191180
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074 V020000	0.00
074 W000000	0.0000
074 X000000	6
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
083 B000000	0
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084 B000000	0
085 A000000	Y
085 B000000	N
086 A010000	0
086 A020000	0

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086	B010000	155
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086	C010000	0
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086	D010000	0
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087	A010000	COMMON STOCK
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	