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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form NSAR-A  
August 29, 2008

PAGE 1  
000 A000000 06/30/2008  
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  
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002 B000000 CHICAGO  
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007 C010800 8  
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008 A000001 NUVEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT  
008 B000001 A  
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008 D020001 IL  
008 D030001 60606  
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008 A000002 ENHANCED INVESTMENT TECHNOLOGIES (INTECH)  
008 B000002 A  
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008 D010002 PALM BEACH GARDENS  
008 D020002 FL  
008 D030002 33410  
012 A000001 EQUISERVE INC.  
012 B000001 84-05925  
012 C010001 PROVIDENCE  
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PAGE 2  
013 A000001 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP  
013 B010001 CHICAGO  
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014 A000001 NUVEEN INVESTMENTS, LLC  
014 B000001 8-13464

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015 A000001 STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY  
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015 C010001 BOSTON  
015 C020001 MA  
015 C030001 02110  
015 E010001 X  
018 000000 Y  
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020 C000005 14  
020 A000006 GUZMAN & CO  
020 B000006 59-2764363  
020 C000006 11  
020 A000007 WEEDEN & CO  
020 B000007 13-3364318  
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020 A000008 JEFFERIES & CO  
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PAGE 3

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054 B000000 N  
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PAGE 6  
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070 B010000 Y  
070 B020000 Y  
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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