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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form NSAR-B  
March 01, 2013

PAGE 1  
000 B000000 12/31/2012  
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  
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007 B000000 0  
007 C010100 1  
008 A000001 NUVEEN FUND ADVISORS, LLC  
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 COMPUTERSHARE INC.  
012 B000001 84-05925  
012 C010001 PROVIDENCE  
012 C020001 RI  
012 C030001 02940  
013 A000001 PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP  
013 B010001 CHICAGO  
013 B020001 IL  
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014 A000001 NUVEEN INVESTMENTS, LLC  
014 B000001 8-13464  
015 A000001 STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY  
015 B000001 C  
015 C010001 BOSTON  
PAGE 2  
015 C020001 MA  
015 C030001 02110  
015 E010001 X  
018 000000 Y  
019 A000000 Y  
019 B000000 216

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019 C000000 NUVEENFUND  
020 A000001 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES LLC  
020 C000001 35  
020 A000002 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL SVCS INC EQUITIES  
020 C000002 27  
020 A000003 CREDIT SUISSE  
020 B000003 13-5659485  
020 C000003 19  
020 A000004 WEEDEN + CO.  
020 B000004 13-3364318  
020 C000004 16  
020 A000005 JEFFERIES+ COMPANY INC  
020 B000005 95-2622900  
020 C000005 15  
020 A000006 DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC  
020 B000006 13-2730828  
020 C000006 12  
020 A000007 BNY CONVERGEX  
020 B000007 13-3989198  
020 C000007 9  
020 A000008 MERRILL LYNCH  
020 B000008 13-5674085  
020 C000008 9  
020 A000009 UBS SECURITIES LLC  
020 B000009 13-2638166  
020 C000009 9  
020 A000010 GUZMAN AND COMPANY  
020 C000010 8  
021 000000 165  
022 A000001 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES  
022 B000001 13-2975865  
022 C000001 35205  
022 D000001 35466  
022 A000002 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL  
022 B000002 75-1565705  
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022 A000004 SUQSUEHANNA TRUST  
022 B000004 23-6242866  
022 C000004 18331  
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022 A000005 WEEDEN + CO.  
022 B000005 13-3364318  
022 C000005 15797  
022 D000005 16179  
022 A000006 LYNCH, JONES & RYAN  
022 B000006 13-3356934  
022 C000006 9754  
022 D000006 18614  
022 A000007 DEUTSCHE BANK  
022 B000007 13-2730828  
022 C000007 14844  
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022 A000008 GLOBAL HUNTER  
022 B000008 74-3055482  
022 C000008 9014  
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022	A000009	GUZMAN & CO	
022	B000009	59-2764363	
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 042 G000000 0  
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 054 L000000 N  
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 054 N000000 N  
 054 O000000 Y  
 055 A000000 Y  
 055 B000000 N  
 056 000000 Y  
 057 000000 N  
 058 A000000 N  
 059 000000 Y

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060 A000000 Y  
060 B000000 Y  
061 000000 0  
062 A000000 N  
062 B000000 0.0  
062 C000000 0.0  
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062 K000000 0.0  
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PAGE 6

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062 N000000 0.0  
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062 R000000 0.0  
063 A000000 0  
063 B000000 0.0  
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068 B000000 N  
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070 L010000 Y  
070 L020000 N  
070 M010000 Y  
070 M020000 N  
070 N010000 Y

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070	N020000	N	
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070	P010000	N	
070	P020000	N	
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070	Q010000	N	
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070	R020000	N	
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071	B000000		193494
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072	V000000		0
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072	X000000		2482
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072BB	000000		0
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074	F000000		231857
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074	J000000		0

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074	K000000	0
074	L000000	364
074	M000000	15
074	N000000	236995
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074	T000000	236438
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077	O000000	N
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078	000000	N
080	A000000	CHUBB GROUP OF INSURANCE COMPANIES
080	B000000	BERKLEY, GREAT AMERICAN, ST. PAUL,CNA,ZURICH
080	C000000	114000
081	A000000	Y
081	B000000	215
082	A000000	N
082	B000000	0
	PAGE	9
083	A000000	N
083	B000000	0
084	A000000	N
084	B000000	0
085	A000000	Y
085	B000000	N
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086	A020000	0
086	B010000	0
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086	C010000	0
086	C020000	0
086	D010000	0
086	D020000	0

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086	E010000	0
086	E020000	0
086	F010000	0
086	F020000	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	