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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form NSAR-A  
August 31, 2009

PAGE 1  
000 A000000 06/30/2009  
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  
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002 A000000 333 WEST WACKER DRIVE  
002 B000000 CHICAGO  
002 C000000 IL  
002 D010000 60606  
002 D020000 1286  
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004 000000 N  
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008 A000001 NUVEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT  
008 B000001 A  
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008 D010001 CHICAGO  
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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  
012 C020001 RI  
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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  
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019 B000000 199  
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020 C000001 14  
020 A000002 MERRILL LYNCH  
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020 A000003 GOLDMAN SACHS  
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020 A000006 JEFFERIES & CO  
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PAGE 3

022 B000002 13-2730828  
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022 B000005 13-5108880  
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054 E000000 N  
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070 B020000 Y  
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087 A010000 COMMON STOCK  
087 A020000 67090X107  
087 A030000 JCE  
088 A000000 N  
088 B000000 N  
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088 D000000 N  
SIGNATURE STEPHEN D. FOY  
TITLE V.P. & CONTROLLER