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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form NSAR-A  
August 29, 2012

PAGE 1  
000 A000000 06/30/2012  
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  
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002 A000000 333 WEST WACKER DRIVE  
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008 A000001 NUVEEN FUND ADVISORS  
008 B000001 A  
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008 A000002 ENHANCED INVESTMENT TECHNOLOGIES (INTECH)  
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008 D010002 PALM BEACH GARDENS  
008 D020002 FL  
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012 A000001 EQUISERVE INC.  
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012 C010001 PROVIDENCE  
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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  
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020 A000001 ROSENBLATT SECURITIES LLC  
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020 A000006 BNY CONVERGEX  
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020 A000007 JEFFERIES + COMPANY INC  
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022 A000003 LYNCH, JONES & RYAN  
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087 A030000 JCE

088 A000000 N

088 B000000 N

088 C000000 N

088 D000000 N

SIGNATURE STEPHEN D. FOY

TITLE V.P. & CONTROLLER