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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form NSAR-B  
March 01, 2012

PAGE 1  
000 B000000 12/31/2011  
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 N  
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007 C010500 5  
007 C010600 6  
007 C010700 7  
007 C010800 8  
007 C010900 9  
007 C011000 10  
008 A000001 NUVEEN FUND ADVISORS  
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  
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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 239  
019 C000000 NUVEENFUND  
020 A000001 DEUTSCHE BANK SECURITIES INC  
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020 C000001 35  
020 A000002 WEEDEN + CO.  
020 B000002 13-3364318  
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020 A000003 UBS SECURITIES LLC  
020 B000003 13-2638166  
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020 A000004 CREDIT SUISSE  
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020 C000004 16  
020 A000005 KNIGHT SECURITIES L.P.  
020 B000005 22-3660471  
020 C000005 14  
020 A000006 INSTINET  
020 B000006 13-3443395  
020 C000006 11  
020 A000007 JEFFERIES + COMPANY INC  
020 B000007 95-2622900  
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020 A000008 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL SVCS INC EQUITIES  
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020 A000009 MERRILL LYNCH  
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020 A000010 SANFORD CBERNSTEIN CO LLC  
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022 A000001 DEUTSCHE BANK  
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PAGE 3  
022 B000002 13-3364318  
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022 B000005 37-1615850  
022 C000005 14900  
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022 A000006 JEFFERIES & CO

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022 B000006 95-2622900  
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022 A000008 SUQSUEHANNA TRUST  
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022 A000009 CAPITAL INSTITUTIONAL  
022 B000009 75-1565705  
022 C000009 5416  
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022 A000010 SANFORD BERNSTEIN  
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 054 H000000 Y  
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 054 M000000 Y  
 054 N000000 N  
 054 O000000 Y  
 055 A000000 Y  
 055 B000000 N  
       PAGE 6  
 056 000000 Y  
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 058 A000000 N  
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 060 A000000 Y  
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 070 B020000 Y  
 070 C010000 Y  
 070 C020000 N  
 070 D010000 N  
 070 D020000 N

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070	E010000	Y	
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076 000000	12.47
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077 B000000	Y
078 000000	N
080 A000000	CHUBB GROUP OF INSURANCE COMPANIES
080 B000000	BERKLEY, GREAT AMERICAN, ST. PAUL, CNA & ZURICH
	PAGE 9
080 C000000	114000
081 A000000	Y
081 B000000	238
082 A000000	N
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085 B000000	N
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086	C020000	0
086	D010000	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	