

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Form N-CSR
March 09, 2016

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
FORM N-CSR
CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-22003
Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy
Nuveen Investments
333 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (312) 917-7700

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2015

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

Closed-End Funds

Nuveen Investments
Closed-End Funds

Annual Report December 31, 2015

JCE
Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

Life is Complex

Nuveen makes things e-simple.

It only takes a minute to sign up for e-Reports. Once enrolled, you'll receive an e-mail as soon as your Nuveen Investments Fund information is ready - no more waiting for delivery by regular mail. Just click on the link within the e-mail to see the report and save it on your computer if you wish.

Free e-Reports right to your e-mail!

www.investordelivery.com

If you receive your Nuveen Fund dividends and statements from your financial advisor or brokerage account.

or www.nuveen.com/accountaccess

If you receive your Nuveen Fund dividends and statements directly from Nuveen.

Table

of Contents

<u>Chairman's Letter to Shareholders</u>	4
<u>Portfolio Managers' Comments</u>	5
<u>Share Information</u>	8
<u>Risk Considerations</u>	10
<u>Performance Overview and Holding Summaries</u>	11
<u>Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm</u>	13
<u>Portfolio of Investments</u>	14
<u>Statement of Assets and Liabilities</u>	21
<u>Statement of Operations</u>	22
<u>Statement of Changes in Net Assets</u>	23
<u>Financial Highlights</u>	24
<u>Notes to Financial Statements</u>	26
<u>Additional Fund Information</u>	35
<u>Glossary of Terms Used in this Report</u>	36
<u>Reinvest Automatically, Easily and Conveniently</u>	37
<u>Board Members & Officers</u>	38
Nuveen Investments	3

Chairman's Letter

to Shareholders

Dear Shareholders,

For better or for worse, the financial markets spent most of the past year waiting for the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to end its accommodative monetary policy. The policy has propped up stock and bond markets since the Great Recession, but the question remains: how will markets behave without its influence? This uncertainty was a considerable source of volatility for stock and bond prices for much of 2015, despite the Fed carefully conveying its intention to raise rates slowly and only when the economy shows evidence of readiness.

As was widely expected, the long-awaited Fed rate hike materialized in mid-December. While the move was interpreted as a vote of confidence on the U.S. economy's underlying strength, the Fed emphasized that future rate increases will be gradual and guided by its ongoing assessment of financial conditions. Headwinds including rising borrowing costs, softer commodity prices, low inflation, a strong U.S. dollar and a stagnant global economy could necessitate keeping monetary conditions accommodative for longer. Meanwhile, policy makers in Europe and Japan are deploying their available tools to try to bolster their economies' fragile growth, while Chinese authorities have stepped up efforts to manage China's slowdown.

Although the new year began with a more pessimistic tone to investor sentiment and elevated volatility in the markets, we caution investors from making long-term decisions based on short-term news. In times like these, you can look to a professional investment manager with the experience and discipline to maintain the proper perspective on short-term events. And if the daily headlines do concern you, I encourage you to reach out to your financial advisor. Your financial advisor can help you evaluate your investment strategies in light of current events, your time horizon and risk tolerance.

On behalf of the other members of the Nuveen Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

William J. Schneider

Chairman of the Board

February 22, 2016

Portfolio Managers

Comments

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE)

The equity portion of the Fund is managed by INTECH Investment Management LLC (INTECH), an independently managed subsidiary of Janus Capital Group Inc. The portfolio management team is led by Dr. Adrian Banner, CEO/CIO, Joseph Runnels, CFA, Vassilios Papathanakos, PhD, and Phillip Whitman, PhD.

The Fund also employs a call option strategy managed by Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (NAM), an affiliate of Nuveen Investments, Inc. Keith Hembre, CFA, and David Friar oversee this program.

Here the INTECH team members, along with the NAM team discuss economic and market conditions, their management strategies and the performance of the Fund for the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2015.

What factors affected the U.S. economy and financial markets during the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2015?

The U.S. economy grew at an overall moderate pace during the twelve-month reporting period. Harsh winter weather and a West coast port strike weighed on growth in the first quarter of 2015, but those factors proved temporary. Rebounding economic activity in the second quarter was followed by a mediocre advance in the latter half of the year. Real gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of the goods and services produced by the nation's economy less the value of the goods and services used up in production, adjusted for price changes, increased at an annual rate of 0.7% in the fourth quarter of 2015, as reported by the advance estimate of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, down from 2.0% in the third quarter.

The labor and housing markets were among the bright spots in the economy during the reporting period, as both showed steady improvement. As reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate fell to 5.0% in December from 5.7% in January 2015, and job gains averaged slightly above 200,000 per month for the past twelve months. The S&P/Case-Shiller U.S. National Home Price Index, which covers all nine U.S. census divisions, recorded a 5.1% annual gain in November 2015 (most recent data available at the time this report was prepared). The 10-City and 20-City Composites reported year-over-year increases of 5.3% and 5.8%, respectively.

With GDP growth averaging around 2% for the previous four quarters, the U.S. economic recovery continued to underwhelm. Consumers, whose purchases comprise the largest component of the U.S. economy, benefited from lower gasoline prices and an improving jobs market but didn't necessarily spend more. Pessimism about the economy's future and lackluster wage growth likely contributed to consumers' somewhat muted spending. The sharp decline in energy prices and tepid wage growth kept inflation subdued during this reporting period. The Consumer Price Index CPI declined 0.1% in December on a seasonally adjusted basis, as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The core CPI (which excludes food and energy) increased 0.1% during the same period, below the Fed's unofficial longer term inflation objective of 2.0%.

Business investment was also rather restrained. Corporate earnings growth slowed during 2015, reflecting an array of factors ranging from weakening demand amid sluggish U.S. and global growth to the impact of falling commodity

Certain statements in this report are forward-looking statements. Discussions of specific investments are for illustration only and are not intended as recommendations of individual investments. The forward-looking statements and other views expressed herein are those of the portfolio managers as of the date of this report. Actual future results or occurrences may differ significantly from those anticipated in any forward-looking statements and the views expressed herein are subject to change at any time, due to numerous market and other factors. The Fund disclaims any obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or views expressed herein.

Refer to the Glossary of Terms Used in this report for further definition of the terms used within this section.

Portfolio Managers Comments (continued)

prices and a strong U.S. dollar. Energy, materials and industrials companies were hit particularly hard by the downturn in natural resource prices, as well as the expectation of rising interest rates, which would make their debts more costly to service. With demand waning, companies, especially in the health care and technology sectors, looked to consolidations with rivals as a way to boost revenues. Merger and acquisition deals, both in the U.S. and globally, reached record levels in the calendar year 2015.

Although the current expansion continued to look subpar relative to past recoveries, the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) believed the economy was strong enough to begin the withdrawal of its stimulus policies. After winding down its bond buying program, known as quantitative easing, in October 2014, the Fed began telegraphing its intention to raise the target federal funds rate some time in 2015. The Fed had held the fed funds rate near zero since December 2008. However, the timing of its first rate hike was uncertain, particularly as the inflation rate stayed stubbornly low and signs of global economic weakness, notably from China, merited caution. After delaying the rate change at each prior meeting in 2015, the Fed announced in December 2015 that it would raise its main policy interest rate by 0.25%. The news had a relatively muted impact on the financial markets, as the move was widely expected.

Sluggish economic growth and significant downside risks created a challenging environment for investors in 2015. Recent equity volatility has attracted the most attention, but a wide range of markets participated in the correction. Bond yields declined, commodity prices dropped and currency markets fluctuated. With this volatile backdrop, the S&P 500® Index finished 2015 with a modest gain of 1.38%. Among its 10 sectors, only 5 delivered positive returns for the reporting period, led by consumer discretionary, health care and consumer staples. Energy, materials and the utilities sectors struggled amid continued declines in commodity prices and fears of rising interest rates.

What key strategies were used to manage the Fund during this twelve month reporting period ended December 31, 2015?

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide an attractive level of total return, primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains. The Fund invests in a portfolio of common stocks selected from the stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index, using a proprietary mathematical process designed by INTECH and also employs risk reduction techniques. Typically, the Fund's equity portfolio will hold 150-450 stocks included in the S&P 500® Index.

The Fund also employs an option strategy that seeks to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted performance over time by means of attempting to reduce volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the S&P 500® Index. The Fund expects to write (sell) call options on a custom basket of equities with a notional value of up to 50% of the value of the equity portfolio.

The goal of the Fund's equity portfolio is to produce long-term returns in excess of the S&P 500® Index with an equal or lesser amount of risk. The continued market uncertainty during this reporting period reconfirmed the importance of disciplined risk management like INTECH's investment process. The firm's core risk controls are focused on minimizing the volatility of excess returns relative to the S&P 500® Index, so that any excess return is as consistent as possible and any relative underperformance is limited in magnitude and duration. We believe this helps minimize tracking error in relation to the S&P 500® Index during periods of short-term market instability.

INTECH seeks to generate excess returns by harnessing the natural volatility of stock prices to build a potentially more efficient portfolio than the S&P 500® Index. INTECH's investment process focuses solely on relative volatility and correlation. Specifically, the process searches for stocks with high relative volatility and low correlation,

attempting to increase the potential for trading profits at the time of rebalancing. The actual positioning of the portfolio from a sector and stock specific standpoint is a residual of the process, and the rationale for over and underweight positions is a function of the stocks' relative volatility and correlation characteristics in aggregate.

Because INTECH's process does not forecast the direction of stock prices, we anticipate equity holdings that are overweight or underweight relative to the index may potentially beat the benchmark in approximately equal proportions over time.

6 Nuveen Investments

How did the Fund perform during this twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2015?

The table in the Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provides total returns for the one-year, five-year and since inception periods ended December 31, 2015. The Fund's total returns at net asset value (NAV) are compared with the performance of a corresponding market index. For the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2015, the Fund outperformed the S&P 500® Index, but underperformed its Blended Index.

Since INTECH uses a purely portfolio-theoretic methodology, we do not specifically select stocks or overweight sectors in response to market conditions or expectations. Instead, we modify the Fund's equity holdings in an attempt to construct a portfolio that is slightly more efficient than the S&P 500® Index, by using an optimization program that analyzes a stock's relative volatility and its return correlation with other equities. Effectively, the investment process tends to favor stocks with higher relative volatility and lower correlation as they offer more potential to capture volatility through regular rebalancing. INTECH's investment process doesn't select stocks based on their potential for future performance, but combines securities based on how their stock prices move relative to the index in order to increase the potential for trading profits at time of rebalancing.

The equity portion of the Fund outperformed the S&P 500® Index. Following a big sell-off during the third quarter, U.S. equity markets rebounded strongly in the fourth quarter and posted a return of 1.38% for the reporting period as represented by the S&P 500® Index. Expectations of lower demand from China pushed commodities and oil prices down which negatively impacted the energy sector during the reporting period. The utilities sector also underperformed for the reporting period in anticipation of the Fed's rate increase that occurred in December.

Market diversity measured on the S&P 500® Index decreased during the reporting period, reflecting a change in the distribution of capital in which the larger cap stocks outperformed the smaller cap stocks within the index. The equity portion of the Fund, (which tends to favor smaller cap stocks within the index as they provide more volatility capture potential), was negatively impacted by this decline in diversity. The Fund benefited from favorable sector positioning and security selection during the reporting period.

From a sector perspective, the Fund benefited from an underweight to energy sector, which underperformed the S&P 500® Index by more than 22% in 2015. In addition, an average overweight allocation to the consumer discretionary sector, which was the best performing sector during the reporting period, was beneficial. Additionally, an average overweight to some strong performing consumer staples names also contributed during the reporting period.

Because INTECH does not conduct traditional economic or fundamental analysis, INTECH has no view on individual stocks, sectors, economic or market conditions. While sector and stock specific active positioning can influence the relative performance of INTECH strategies over the short-term (in a positive or negative way), we expect that the rebalancing premium, or trading profit, that INTECH's process is targeting, will explain most of a portfolio's relative return over the long term.

As mentioned previously, the Fund also wrote call options with average expirations between 30 and 90 days. This was done in an effort to enhance returns, although it meant the Fund did relinquish some of the upside potential of its equity portfolio. During the reporting period, when we expected equity markets to increase we reduced the overwrite percentage. At other times, we increased the overwrite percentage to approximately 35% when we anticipated the equity markets to be flat or decline. The effect on performance for the reporting period was mostly positive. We were able to take advantage of the higher stock market volatility which increased the Fund's net call option premiums received. However, during periods when the markets rose quickly, especially, during the fourth quarter, the Fund did not capture as much of the upside potential.

The Fund also continued to purchase equity index futures contracts to gain equity market exposure where the portfolio holds cash. During the period, this had a small positive effective on performance.

Share

Information

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The following information regarding the Fund's distributions is current as of December 31, 2015, the Fund's fiscal and tax year end, and may differ from previously issued distribution notifications. The Fund's distribution levels may vary over time based on the Fund's investment activities and portfolio investment value changes.

The Fund has adopted a managed distribution program. The goal of the Fund's managed distribution program is to provide shareholders relatively consistent and predictable cash flow by systematically converting its expected long-term return potential into regular distributions. As a result, regular distributions throughout the year will likely include a portion of expected long-term and/or short-term gains (both realized and unrealized), along with net investment income.

Important points to understand about Nuveen fund managed distributions are:

The Fund seeks to establish a relatively stable common share distribution rate that roughly corresponds to the projected total return from its investment strategy over an extended period of time. However, you should not draw any conclusions about the Fund's past or future investment performance from its current distribution rate.

Actual common share returns will differ from projected long-term returns (and therefore the Fund's distribution rate), at least over shorter time periods. Over a specific timeframe, the difference between actual returns and total distributions will be reflected in an increasing (returns exceed distributions) or a decreasing (distributions exceed returns) Fund net asset value.

Each period's distributions are expected to be paid from some or all of the following sources:

net investment income consisting of regular interest and dividends,

net realized gains from portfolio investments, and

unrealized gains, or, in certain cases, a return of principal (non-taxable distributions).

A non-taxable distribution is a payment of a portion of the Fund's capital. When the Fund's returns exceed distributions, it may represent portfolio gains generated, but not realized as a taxable capital gain. In periods when the Fund's returns fall short of distributions, it will represent a portion of your original principal unless the shortfall is offset during other time periods over the life of your investment (previous or subsequent) when the Fund's total return exceeds distributions.

Because distribution source estimates are updated throughout the current fiscal year based on the Fund's performance, these estimates may differ from both the tax information reported to you in the Fund's 1099 statement, as well as the ultimate economic sources of distributions over the life of your investment.

The following table provides information regarding the Fund's distributions and total return performance over various time periods. This information is intended to help you better understand whether the Fund's returns for the specified time periods were sufficient to meet its distributions.

8 Nuveen Investments

Data as of December 31, 2015

Inception Date	Per Share						Annualized Total Return on NAV		
	Regular Distributions		Total Current Year	Total Current Year	Total Current	Annual Full-Year			
	Latest Quarter	Total Current Year	Net Investment Income	Net Realized Gain/Loss	Unrealized Gain/Loss	Distribution Rate on NAV ¹	Distribution Rate on NAV ^{2,3}	1-Year	5-Year
3/2007	\$ 0.3030	\$ 1.2120	\$ 0.0908	\$ 0.6621	\$ 1.6107	8.12%	8.12%	1.64%	12.88%

¹ Current distribution per share, annualized, divided by the NAV per share on the stated date other than net investment income, as shown in the table immediately below.

² Actual total per share distributions made during the full fiscal year, divided by the NAV per share on the stated date.

³ Each distribution represents a managed distribution rate. For this Fund, at least in the just completed fiscal year, distributions may be comprised of sources other than net investment income, as shown in the table immediately below.

The following table provides the Fund's distribution sources as of December 31, 2015.

The amounts and sources of distributions reported in this notice are for financial reporting purposes and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and character of the distributions for tax reporting purposes will be reported to shareholders on Form 1099-DIV which will be sent to shareholders shortly after calendar year-end. More details about the Fund's distributions and the basis for these amounts are available on www.nuveen.com/cef.

Fiscal Year	Source of Distribution			Fiscal Year	Per Share Amounts		
	Net Investment Income	Realized Gains	Return of Capital ¹		Net Investment Income	Realized Gains	Return of Capital ¹
	3.52%	96.48%	0.00%		\$0.0967	\$2.6531	\$0.0000

¹ Return of Capital may represent unrealized gains, return of shareholder's principal, or both. In certain circumstances, all or a portion of the return of capital may be characterized as ordinary income under federal tax law. The actual tax characterization will be provided to shareholders on Form 1099-DIV shortly after calendar year-end.

SHARE REPURCHASES

During August 2015, the Fund's Board of Trustees reauthorized an open-market share repurchase program, allowing the Fund to repurchase an aggregate of up to approximately 10% of its outstanding shares.

As of December 31, 2015, and since the inception of the Fund's repurchase program, the Fund has cumulatively repurchased and retired its outstanding shares as shown in the accompanying table.

Shares cumulatively repurchased and retired	JCE 449,800
---	-----------------------

Shares authorized for repurchase

1,600,000

OTHER SHARE INFORMATION

As of December 31, 2015, and during the current reporting period, the Fund's share price was trading at a premium/(discount) to its NAV as shown in the accompanying table.

	JCE
NAV	\$14.93
Share price	\$14.27
Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(4.42)%
12-month average premium/(discount) to NAV	(4.83)%

Nuveen Investments 9

Risk

Considerations

Fund shares are not guaranteed or endorsed by any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE)

Investing in closed-end funds involves risk; principal loss is possible. There is no guarantee the Fund's investment objectives will be achieved. Closed-end fund shares may frequently trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. **Common stock** returns often have experienced significant volatility. The Fund may not participate in any appreciation of its equity portfolio as fully as it would if the Fund did not sell **call options**. In addition, the Fund will continue to bear the risk of declines in the value of the equity portfolio. Because **index options** are settled in cash, sellers of index call options, such as the Fund, cannot provide in advance for their potential settlement obligations by acquiring and holding the underlying securities. For these and other risks, including **tax risk**, please see the Fund's web page at www.nuveen.com/JCE.

JCE

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

Performance Overview and Holding Summaries as of December 31, 2015

Refer to Glossary of Terms Used in this Report for further definition of terms used within this section.

Average Annual Total Returns as of December 31, 2015

	Average Annual		
	1-Year	5-Year	Since Inception
JCE at NAV	1.64%	12.88%	7.57%
JCE at Share Price	(1.70)%	14.07%	7.29%
JCE Blended Index	3.33%	9.79%	5.35%
S&P 500® Index	1.38%	12.57%	6.44%

Since inception returns are from 3/27/07. Past performance is not predictive of future results. Current performance may be higher or lower than the data shown. Returns do not reflect the deduction of taxes that shareholders may have to pay on Fund distributions or upon the sale of Fund shares. Returns at NAV are net of Fund expenses, and assume reinvestment of distributions. Comparative index return information is provided for the Fund's shares at NAV only. Indexes are not available for direct investment.

Share Price Performance Weekly Closing Price

This data relates to the securities held in the Fund's portfolio of investments as of the end of the reporting period. It should not be construed as a measure of performance for the Fund itself. Holdings are subject to change.

Fund Allocation

(% of net assets)

Common Stocks	97.6%
Repurchase Agreements	0.6%
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	1.0%
Other Assets Less Liabilities	0.8%
Net Assets	100%

Portfolio Composition

(% of total investments)¹

Health Care Providers & Services	9.8%
Specialty Retail	7.7%
Insurance	3.9%
Software	3.9%
Food Products	3.7%
Capital Markets	3.6%
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	3.6%
Aerospace & Defense	3.3%
Food & Staples Retailing	3.1%
Banks	3.0%
Diversified Financial Services	2.8%
Pharmaceuticals	2.8%
Multi-Utilities	2.7%
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	2.6%
Household Durables	2.6%
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	2.5%
Chemicals	2.4%
Internet Software & Services	2.4%
Media	2.3%
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	2.2%
Biotechnology	2.0%
Multiline Retail	2.0%
Beverages	2.0%
IT Services	2.0%
Other	19.4%

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

Repurchase Agreements	0.6%
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	1.1%
Total	100%

Top Five Issuers

(% of total investments)¹

Anthem Inc.	2.7%
CVS Health Corporation	1.9%
Electronic Arts Inc.	1.8%
AmerisourceBergen Corporation	1.8%
Home Depot, Inc.	1.7%

1 Excluding investments in derivatives.

12 Nuveen Investments

Report of

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund:

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the portfolio of investments, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (hereinafter referred to as the Fund) at December 31, 2015, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as financial statements) are the responsibility of the Fund s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities at December 31, 2015 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chicago, IL

February 25, 2016

Nuveen Investments 13

JCE

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Portfolio of Investments

December 31, 2015

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 97.6%	
	COMMON STOCKS 97.6%	
	Aerospace & Defense 3.2%	
10,800	General Dynamics Corporation	\$ 1,483,488
18,100	Lockheed Martin Corporation	3,930,415
7,000	Northrop Grumman Corporation	1,321,670
6,700	Raytheon Company	834,351
2,200	Rockwell Collins, Inc.	203,060
	Total Aerospace & Defense	7,772,984
	Air Freight & Logistics 0.2%	
4,800	C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.	297,696
5,400	Expeditors International of Washington, Inc.	243,540
	Total Air Freight & Logistics	541,236
	Auto Components 1.7%	
29,400	Delphi Automotive PLC	2,520,462
45,200	Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company	1,476,684
	Total Auto Components	3,997,146
	Banks 3.0%	
8,400	BB&T Corporation	317,604
29,100	Comerica Incorporated	1,217,253
22,700	Fifth Third Bancorp.	456,270
58,100	Huntington BancShares Inc.	642,586
51,400	KeyCorp.	677,966
3,000	M&T Bank Corporation	363,540
50,500	People's United Financial, Inc.	815,575
45,500	Regions Financial Corporation	436,800
23,550	Wells Fargo & Company	1,280,178
34,400	Zions Bancorporation	939,120
	Total Banks	7,146,892
	Beverages 2.0%	
5,600	Brown-Forman Corporation	555,968
3,000	Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.	147,720
10,400	Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A	1,481,376
14,300	Dr. Pepper Snapple Group	1,332,760
8,200	Monster Beverage Corporation, (2)	1,221,472
	Total Beverages	4,739,296
	Biotechnology 2.0%	

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

14,900	Gilead Sciences, Inc.	1,507,731
6,100	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (2)	3,311,507
	Total Biotechnology	4,819,238
	Building Products 0.6%	
10,200	Allegion PLC	672,384
29,200	Masco Corporation	826,360
	Total Building Products	1,498,744
	Capital Markets 3.6%	
2,200	Bank New York Mellon	90,684
17,800	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc., (3)	3,208,094
78,000	Morgan Stanley, (3)	2,481,180
29,300	Northern Trust Corporation	2,112,237

14 Nuveen Investments

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Capital Markets (continued)	
11,500	State Street Corporation	\$ 763,140
	Total Capital Markets	8,655,335
	Chemicals 2.4%	
17,800	Eastman Chemical Company	1,201,678
10,300	Ecolab Inc., (3)	1,178,114
39,500	LyondellBasell Industries NV	3,432,550
	Total Chemicals	5,812,342
	Commercial Services & Supplies 1.5%	
19,300	Cintas Corporation	1,757,265
17,000	Republic Services, Inc.	747,830
9,900	Stericycle Inc., (2)	1,193,940
	Total Commercial Services & Supplies	3,699,035
	Communications Equipment 0.8%	
7,200	F5 Networks, Inc., (2)	698,112
17,700	Juniper Networks Inc.	488,520
11,900	Motorola Solutions Inc.	814,555
	Total Communications Equipment	2,001,187
	Construction & Engineering 0.2%	
21,900	Quanta Services Incorporated, (2)	443,475
	Construction Materials 1.3%	
9,300	Martin Marietta Materials	1,270,194
18,400	Vulcan Materials Company	1,747,448
	Total Construction Materials	3,017,642
	Consumer Finance 1.1%	
13,900	Capital One Financial Corporation	1,003,302
28,400	Discover Financial Services	1,522,808
	Total Consumer Finance	2,526,110
	Containers & Packaging 0.9%	
15,200	Avery Dennison Corporation	952,432
29,600	Sealed Air Corporation	1,320,160
	Total Containers & Packaging	2,272,592
	Diversified Consumer Services 0.2%	
16,000	H & R Block Inc.	532,960
	Diversified Financial Services 2.8%	
32,300	CME Group, Inc., (3)	2,926,380
40,400	Leucadia National Corporation	702,556
5,400	McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	532,332
12,400	Moody's Corporation	1,244,216
23,100	NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.	1,343,727
	Total Diversified Financial Services	6,749,211
	Electric Utilities 1.3%	

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

6,400	American Electric Power Company, Inc.	372,928
4,800	Edison International	284,208
9,600	Eversource Energy	490,272
3,900	Pepco Holdings, Inc.	101,439
7,200	Pinnacle West Capital Corporation	464,256
16,600	PPL Corporation	566,558
6,500	Southern Company	304,135
18,100	Xcel Energy, Inc.	649,971
	Total Electric Utilities	3,233,767

Nuveen Investments 15

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Portfolio of Investments (continued)

December 31, 2015

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Electrical Equipment 0.2%	
7,600	Ametek Inc.	\$ 407,284
	Energy Equipment & Services 0.5%	
15,700	Cooper Cameron Corporation, (2)	992,240
9,000	Transocean Inc.	111,420
	Total Energy Equipment & Services	1,103,660
	Food & Staples Retailing 3.1%	
45,400	CVS Health Corporation, (3)	4,438,758
55,400	Kroger Co.	2,317,382
4,800	Sysco Corporation	196,800
4,300	Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc.	366,167
	Total Food & Staples Retailing	7,319,107
	Food Products 3.6%	
26,600	Campbell Soup Company	1,397,830
34,800	ConAgra Foods, Inc.	1,467,168
11,600	General Mills, Inc.	668,856
3,800	Hershey Foods Corporation	339,226
6,900	Hormel Foods Corporation	545,652
500	JM Smucker Company	61,670
10,300	Kellogg Company	744,381
21,000	McCormick & Company, Incorporated	1,796,760
6,500	Mondelez International Inc.	291,460
26,300	Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A	1,402,579
	Total Food Products	8,715,582
	Health Care Equipment & Supplies 1.4%	
51,900	Boston Scientific Corporation, (2)	957,036
6,000	C.R. Bard, Inc.	1,136,640
2,800	DENTSPLY International Inc.	170,380
6,600	Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, (2)	521,268
5,700	Stryker Corporation	529,758
	Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies	3,315,082
	Health Care Providers & Services 9.8%	
27,759	Aetna Inc., (3)	3,001,303
40,600	AmerisourceBergen Corporation, (3)	4,210,626
45,800	Anthem Inc., (3)	6,386,351
34,800	Cardinal Health, Inc.	3,106,596
14,300	CIGNA Corporation, (3)	2,092,519
14,600	HCA Holdings Inc., (2)	987,398
2,100	McKesson HBOC Inc.	414,183
15,100	UnitedHealth Group Incorporated	1,776,364
11,700	Universal Health Services, Inc., Class B	1,398,033

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

Total Health Care Providers & Services 23,373,373

Health Care Technology 0.4%

15,000 Cerner Corporation, (2) 902,550

Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 2.6%

13,100 Carnival Corporation 713,688

700 Chipotle Mexican Grill, (2) 335,895

13,500 Darden Restaurants, Inc. 859,140

16,900 Marriott International, Inc., Class A 1,132,976

7,600 Royal Caribbean Cruises Limited 769,196

38,800 Starbucks Corporation 2,329,164

Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure 6,140,059

Household Durables 2.5%

31,700 D.R. Horton, Inc. 1,015,351

16 Nuveen Investments

Shares	Description (1)	Value
Household Durables (continued)		
23,100	Leggett and Platt Inc.	\$ 970,662
3,900	Lennar Corporation, Class A	190,749
10,500	Mohawk Industries Inc., (2)	1,988,595
43,900	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	1,935,112
	Total Household Durables	6,100,469
Household Products 0.2%		
3,400	Clorox Company	431,222
Industrial Conglomerates 0.0%		
100	Roper Technologies, Inc.	18,979
Insurance 3.9%		
6,800	Allstate Corporation	422,212
8,000	American International Group, Inc.	495,760
4,200	AON PLC	387,282
12,700	Assurant Inc.	1,022,858
5,000	Cincinnati Financial Corporation	295,850
35,900	Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.	1,560,214
16,700	Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	926,015
8,800	MetLife, Inc.	424,248
41,400	Progressive Corporation	1,316,520
600	Prudential Financial, Inc.	48,846
17,600	Torchmark Corporation	1,006,016
13,600	Unum Group	452,744
24,800	XL Capital Ltd, Class A	971,664
	Total Insurance	9,330,229
Internet & Catalog Retail 1.2%		
3,400	Expedia, Inc.	422,620
20,700	NetFlix.com Inc., (2)	2,367,666
	Total Internet & Catalog Retail	2,790,286
Internet Software & Services 2.4%		
8,000	Akamai Technologies, Inc., (2)	421,040
21,100	eBay Inc., (2)	579,828
34,600	Facebook Inc., Class A Shares, (2)	3,621,236
12,400	VeriSign, Inc., (2)	1,083,264
	Total Internet Software & Services	5,705,368
IT Services 2.0%		
3,300	Accenture Limited	344,850
3,300	Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	279,576
9,600	Fidelity National Information Services	581,760
26,000	Fiserv, Inc., (2)	2,377,960
3,500	MasterCard, Inc.	340,760
16,300	Total System Services Inc.	811,740
	Total IT Services	4,736,646
Leisure Products 0.7%		

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

23,800	Hasbro, Inc.	1,603,168
	Machinery 0.9%	
7,000	Snap-on Incorporated	1,200,010
8,800	Stanley Black & Decker Inc.	939,224
	Total Machinery	2,139,234
	Media 2.2%	
34,600	Cablevision Systems Corporation	1,103,740
12,800	Comcast Corporation, Class A	722,304
12,000	Time Warner Cable, Class A	2,227,080

Nuveen Investments 17

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Portfolio of Investments (continued)

December 31, 2015

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Media (continued)	
12,700	Walt Disney Company	\$ 1,334,516
	Total Media	5,387,640
	Multiline Retail 2.0%	
17,300	Dollar General Corporation	1,243,351
11,900	Dollar Tree Stores Inc., (2)	918,918
36,200	Target Corporation	2,628,482
	Total Multiline Retail	4,790,751
	Multi-Utilities 2.7%	
7,500	Ameren Corporation	324,225
13,200	CMS Energy Corporation	476,256
18,100	Consolidated Edison, Inc.	1,163,287
4,300	DTE Energy Company	344,817
74,000	NiSource Inc.	1,443,740
7,000	PG&E Corporation	372,330
10,500	Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated	406,245
7,100	Scana Corporation	429,479
24,800	TECO Energy, Inc.	660,920
15,600	WEC Energy Group, Inc.	800,436
	Total Multi-Utilities	6,421,735
	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels 2.2%	
10,700	Cimarex Energy Company	956,366
1,700	Marathon Petroleum Corporation	88,128
15,100	Newfield Exploration Company, (2)	491,656
10,100	Phillips 66	826,180
11,200	Tesoro Corporation	1,180,144
23,300	Valero Energy Corporation	1,647,543
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	5,190,017
	Personal Products 0.2%	
5,100	Estee Lauder Companies Inc., Class A	449,106
	Pharmaceuticals 2.8%	
6,617	Allergan PLC, (2)	2,067,813
9,700	Eli Lilly and Company, (3)	817,322
80,600	Zoetis Incorporated, (3)	3,862,352
	Total Pharmaceuticals	6,747,487
	Professional Services 0.6%	
5,400	Equifax Inc.	601,398
5,600	Nielsen Holdings PLC	260,960
8,000	Verisk Analytics Inc., Class A Shares, (2)	615,040
	Total Professional Services	1,477,398

Real Estate Investment Trust 1.3%

2,500	Apartment Investment & Management Company, Class A	100,075
3,300	AvalonBay Communities, Inc.	607,629
1,643	Equinix Inc.	496,843
4,100	Equity Residential	334,519
4,200	Essex Property Trust Inc.	1,005,522
7,600	Kimco Realty Corporation	201,096
1,800	Public Storage, Inc.	445,860
	Total Real Estate Investment Trust	3,191,544

**Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment
3.5%**

20,400	Avago Technologies Limited	2,961,060
26,600	Broadcom Corporation, Class A	1,538,012
31,300	NVIDIA Corporation	1,031,648
37,000	Skyworks Solutions Inc.	2,842,710

18 Nuveen Investments

Shares	Description (1)	Value
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment (continued)		
1,900	Xilinx, Inc.	\$ 89,243
	Total Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	8,462,673
Software 3.9%		
40,300	Activision Blizzard Inc.	1,560,013
8,200	Adobe Systems Incorporated, (2)	770,308
21,200	CA Technologies	605,472
1,200	Citrix Systems, (2)	90,780
62,300	Electronic Arts Inc., (2)	4,281,256
10,100	Intuit, Inc.	974,650
12,300	Red Hat, Inc., (2)	1,018,563
	Total Software	9,301,042
Specialty Retail 7.7%		
5,700	Advance Auto Parts, Inc.	857,907
1,500	AutoZone, Inc., (2)	1,112,865
3,600	CarMax, Inc., (2)	194,292
17,200	GameStop Corporation	482,288
30,300	Home Depot, Inc.	4,007,175
29,700	L Brands Inc.	2,845,854
36,400	Lowes Companies, Inc.	2,767,856
10,900	O'Reilly Automotive Inc., (2)	2,762,278
25,000	Ross Stores, Inc.	1,345,250
23,100	Tractor Supply Company	1,975,050
	Total Specialty Retail	18,350,815
Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals 0.1%		
1,700	Apple, Inc.	178,942
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods 2.5%		
75,300	Hanesbrands Inc., (3)	2,216,079
22,600	Nike, Inc., Class B	1,412,500
600	PVH Corporation	44,190
14,900	Under Armour, Inc., (2)	1,201,089
18,800	VF Corporation	1,170,300
	Total Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	6,044,158
Tobacco 1.6%		
16,100	Altria Group, Inc.	937,181
60,078	Reynolds American Inc.	2,772,600
	Total Tobacco	3,709,781
Trading Companies & Distributors 0.1%		
1,000	W.W. Grainger, Inc.	202,590

Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$207,957,540) 233,497,169

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (4)	Value
SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 1.6%					
REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS 0.6%					
\$ 1,402	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 12/31/15, repurchase price \$1,401,533, collateralized by \$1,390,000 U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.125%, due 2/15/43, value \$1,433,201	0.030%	1/04/16	N/A	\$ 1,401,528
U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY OBLIGATIONS 1.0%					
2,500	U.S. Treasury Bills, (3)	0.000%	4/28/16	AAA	2,497,905
\$ 3,902	Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$3,899,307)				3,899,433
	Total Investments (cost \$211,856,847) 99.2%				237,396,602
	Other Assets Less Liabilities 0.8% (5)				1,883,801
	Net Assets 100%				\$ 239,280,403

Nuveen Investments 19

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund
Portfolio of Investments (continued)

December 31, 2015

Investments in Derivatives as of December 31, 2015

Options Written outstanding:

Number of Contracts	Description	Notional Amount (6)	Expiration Date	Strike Price	Value
(100)	RUSSELL 2000® Index	\$ (11,700,000)	1/15/16	\$ 1,170	\$ (28,000)
(150)	RUSSELL 2000® Index	(18,000,000)	1/15/16	1,200	(7,875)
(450)	RUSSELL 2000® Index	(53,100,000)	1/15/16	1,180	(63,000)
(700)	Total Options Written (premiums received \$271,571)	\$ (82,800,000)			\$ (98,875)

Futures Contracts outstanding:

Description	Contract Position	Number of Contracts	Contract Expiration	Notional Amount at Value	Variation Margin Receivable/ (Payable)	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
S&P 500 E-Muni	Long	55	3/16	\$ 5,597,350	\$ (52,800)	\$ 93,225

For Fund portfolio compliance purposes, the Fund's industry classifications refer to any one or more of the industry sub-classifications used by one or more widely recognized market indexes or ratings group indexes, and/or as defined by Fund management. This definition may not apply for purposes of this report, which may combine industry sub-classifications into sectors for reporting ease.

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets.
- (2) Non-income producing; issuer has not declared a dividend within the past twelve months.
- (3) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralize the net payment obligations for investments in derivatives.
- (4) Ratings (not covered by the report of independent registered public accounting firm): Using the highest of Standard & Poor's Group (Standard & Poor's), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's) or Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) rating. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor's, Baa by Moody's or BBB by Fitch are considered to be below

investment grade. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by any of these national rating agencies.

(5) Other assets less liabilities includes the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of certain over-the-counter derivatives as presented on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. The unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of exchange-cleared and exchange-traded derivatives is recognized as part of the cash collateral at broker and/or the receivable or payable for variation margin as presented on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities, when applicable. Other assets less liabilities also includes the value of options as presented on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

(6) For disclosure purposes, Notional Amount is calculated by multiplying the Number of Contracts by the Strike Price by 100.

N/A Not Applicable

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

20 Nuveen Investments

Statement of**Assets and Liabilities****December 31, 2015****Assets**

Long-term investments, at value (cost \$207,957,540)	\$ 233,497,169
Short-term investments, at value (cost \$3,899,307)	3,899,433
Receivable for:	
Dividends	304,356
Investments sold	5,041,085
Other assets	22,755
Total assets	242,764,798

Liabilities

Cash overdraft	3,010,216
Options written, at value (premiums received \$271,571)	98,875
Payable for variation margin on futures contracts	52,800
Accrued expenses:	
Management fees	187,960
Trustees fees	22,388
Other	112,156
Total liabilities	3,484,395
Net assets	\$ 239,280,403
Shares outstanding	16,021,686
Net asset value (NAV) per share outstanding	\$ 14.93
Net assets consist of:	
Shares, \$0.01 par value per share	\$ 160,217
Paid-in surplus	206,559,902
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income	(21,042)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	6,775,650
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	25,805,676
Net assets	\$ 239,280,403
Authorized shares	Unlimited

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of**Operations****Year Ended December 31, 2015****Investment Income**

Dividends	\$ 4,219,144
Interest	3,518
Total investment income	4,222,662

Expenses

Management fees	2,456,633
Custodian fees	82,062
Trustees fees	6,652
Professional fees	45,684
Shareholder reporting expenses	52,985
Shareholder servicing agent fees	258
Stock exchange listing fees	7,947
Investor relations expense	55,552
Other	59,687
Total expenses	2,767,460

Net investment income (loss)	1,455,202
------------------------------	-----------

Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)

Net realized gain (loss) from:	
Investments and foreign currency	7,908,917
Future contracts	47,693
Options written	2,651,235
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:	
Investments and foreign currency	(9,009,745)
Futures contracts	8,504
Options written	13,656
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	1,620,260
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	\$ 3,075,462

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Statement of**Changes in Net Assets**

	Year Ended 12/31/15	Year Ended 12/31/14
Operations		
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 1,455,202	\$ 2,531,950
Net realized gain (loss) from:		
Investments and foreign currency	7,908,917	75,009,471
Futures contracts	47,693	841,860
Options written	2,651,235	(5,486,168)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:		
Investments and foreign currency	(9,009,745)	(39,899,084)
Futures contracts	8,504	(119,099)
Options written	13,656	650,895
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	3,075,462	33,529,825
Distributions to Shareholders		
From net investment income	(1,549,211)	(2,521,799)
From accumulated net realized gains	(42,507,221)	(37,718,268)
Decrease in net assets from distributions to shareholders	(44,056,432)	(40,240,067)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(40,980,970)	(6,710,242)
Net assets at the beginning of period	280,261,373	286,971,615
Net assets at the end of period	\$ 239,280,403	\$ 280,261,373
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income at the end of period	\$ (21,042)	\$ (16,000)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Financial

Highlights

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:

	Investment Operations			Less Distributions			Discount Per Shares Repurchased Total Retired	Ending NAV	Ending Share Price
	Net Investment Beginning NAV	Realized/ Unrealized (Gain) (Loss)	Net Gain (Loss)	From Accumulated Net Investment Total Income	From Accumulated Net Realized Gain	Of Return of Capital			
Year Ended 12/31:									
2015	\$ 17.49	\$ 0.09	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.19	\$ (0.10)	\$ (2.65)	\$ (2.75)	\$ 14.93	\$ 14.27
2014	17.91	0.16	1.93	2.09	(0.16)	(2.35)	(2.51)	17.49	17.47
2013	14.76	0.13	4.47	4.60	(0.13)	(1.32)	(1.45)	17.91	16.98
2012	13.88	0.17	1.79	1.96	(1.08)		(1.08)	14.76	13.35
2011	14.05	0.10	0.81	0.91	(1.08)		(1.08)	* 13.88	12.47

Ratios/Supplemental Data
Ratios to Average Net
Assets

Total Returns					
Based on NAV(b)	Based on Share Price(b)	Ending Net Assets (000)	Expenses	Net Investment Income (Loss)	Portfolio Turnover Rate(c)
1.64%	(1.70)%	\$ 239,280	1.03%	0.54%	93%
12.08	18.31	280,261	1.03	0.87	111
31.97	39.08	286,972	1.04	0.77	65
14.28	15.81	236,438	1.05	1.14	77
6.70	3.11	222,461	1.05	0.69	67

(a) Per share Net Investment Income (Loss) is calculated using the average daily shares method.

(b) Total Return Based on NAV is the combination of changes in NAV, reinvested dividend income at NAV and reinvested capital gains distributions at NAV, if any. The last dividend declared in the period, which is typically paid on the first business day of the following month, is assumed to be reinvested at the ending NAV. The actual reinvest price for the last dividend declared in the period may often be based on the Fund's market price (and not its NAV), and therefore may be different from the price used in the calculation. Total returns are not annualized.

Total Return Based on Share Price is the combination of changes in the market price per share and the effect of reinvested dividend income and reinvested capital gains distributions, if any, at the average price paid per share at the time of reinvestment. The last dividend declared in the period, which is typically paid on the first business day of the following month, is assumed to be reinvested at the ending market price. The actual reinvestment for the last dividend declared in the period may take place over several days, and in some instances may not be based on the market price, so the actual reinvestment price may be different from the price used in the calculation. Total returns are not annualized.

(c) Portfolio Turnover Rate is calculated based on the lesser of long-term purchases or sales (as disclosed in Note 5 Investment Transactions) divided by the average long-term market value during the period.

* Rounds to less than \$0.01 per share.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Notes to

Financial Statements

1. General Information and Significant Accounting Policies

General Information

Fund Information

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (the *Fund*) is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a diversified closed-end management investment company. The *Fund*'s shares are listed on the New York Stock Exchange (*NYSE*) and trade under the ticker symbol *JCE*. The *Fund* was organized as a Massachusetts business trust on January 9, 2007.

The end of the reporting period for the *Fund* is December 31, 2015, and the period covered by these Notes to Financial Statements is the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015 (the *current fiscal period*).

Investment Adviser

The *Fund*'s investment adviser is Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (the *Adviser*), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (*Nuveen*). The *Adviser* is responsible for the *Fund*'s overall investment strategy and asset allocation decisions. The *Adviser* has entered into sub-advisory agreements with INTECH Investment Management LLC (*INTECH*), an independently managed indirect subsidiary of Janus Capital Group Inc., and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC, (*NAM*), a subsidiary of the *Adviser*, (each a *Sub-Adviser* and collectively, the *Sub-Advisers*). *INTECH* manages the *Fund*'s investment portfolio, while *NAM* manages the *Fund*'s investments in option contracts.

Investment Objective and Principal Investment Strategies

The *Fund*'s investment objective is to provide an attractive level of total return, primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains. The *Fund* will invest in a portfolio of common stocks selected from among the 500 stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index, using a proprietary mathematical process designed by *INTECH* to select large cap, core equity securities and will also employ innovative risk reduction techniques. Typically, the *Fund*'s equity portfolio will hold 150-450 stocks included in the S&P 500® Index. The *Fund* will also employ an option strategy that seeks to enhance the *Fund*'s risk-adjusted performance over time through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the *Fund*'s returns relative to the returns of the S&P 500® Index (the *Option Strategy*). The *Fund* expects to write (sell) call options primarily on custom baskets of stocks that seek to track the return of the S&P 500® Index within parameters determined by *NAM*. A custom basket call option is an option whose value is linked to the market value of a portfolio of underlying stocks. In designing the custom basket call options, *NAM* will seek to minimize the difference between the returns of the stocks underlying the custom basket versus the S&P 500® Index. The *Fund* may also write call options on stock indexes or exchange-traded funds (commonly referred to as *ETFs*), when *NAM* believes such techniques are likely to be more efficient or effective than writing custom basket call options. The *Fund* normally will hold a small number of written custom basket call option positions with expirations generally of 60 days or less. The *Fund* expects that most call options in the *Option Strategy* will be slightly out-of-the-money (i.e., the exercise price is above the current level of the cash value of the stocks underlying the custom basket call options) at the time they are written. By employing custom basket call options primarily (rather than options on indexes), *NAM* expects that it will be better able to limit the overlap between the underlying common stocks included in each custom basket and the *Fund*'s portfolio of common stocks, which in turn helps enable the *Fund*

to avoid tax straddles, which would potentially have negative tax implications and require the Fund to bear substantially greater accounting and administrative costs.

Significant Accounting Policies

The Fund is an investment company and follows accounting and reporting guidance under Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 946 Financial Services Investment Companies. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP).

Investment Transactions

Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are determined on the specific identification method, which is the same basis used for federal income tax purposes. Investment purchased on a when-issued/delayed delivery basis may have extended settlement periods. Any investments so purchased are subject to market fluctuation during this period. The Fund has earmarked securities in its portfolio with a current value at least equal to the amount of the when-issued/delayed delivery purchase commitments.

As of the end of the reporting period, the Fund did not have any when issued/delayed purchase commitments.

Investment Income

Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date or, for foreign securities, when information is available. Interest income is recorded on an accrual basis.

Professional Fees

Professional fees presented on the Statement of Operations consist of legal fees incurred in the normal course of operations, audit fees, tax consulting fees and, in some cases, workout expenditures. Workout expenditures are incurred in an attempt to protect or enhance an investment or to pursue other claims or legal actions on behalf of Fund shareholders. If a refund is received for workout expenditures paid in a prior reporting period, such amounts will be recognized as "Legal fee refund" on the Statement of Operations.

Dividends and Distributions to Common Shareholders

Distributions to common shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The amount and timing of distributions are determined in accordance with federal income tax regulations, which may differ from U.S. GAAP.

The Fund makes quarterly cash distributions to common shareholders of a stated dollar amount per share. Subject to approval and oversight by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board"), the Fund seeks to maintain a stable distribution level designed to deliver the long-term return potential of the Fund's investment strategy through regular quarterly distributions (a "Managed Distribution Program"). Total distributions during a calendar year generally will be made from the Fund's net investment income, net realized capital gains and net unrealized capital gains in the Fund's portfolio, if any. The portion of distributions paid attributed to net unrealized gains, if any, is distributed from the Fund's assets and is treated by shareholders as a nontaxable distribution ("return of capital") for tax purposes. In the event that total distributions during a calendar year exceed the Fund's total return on net asset value ("NAV"), the difference will reduce NAV per share. If the Fund's total return on NAV exceeds total distributions during a calendar year, the excess will be reflected as an increase in NAV per share. The final determination of the source and character of all distributions paid by the Fund during the fiscal year is made after the end of the fiscal year and is reflected in the financial statements contained in the annual report as of December 31 each year.

The tax character of Fund distributions for a fiscal year is dependent upon the amount and tax character of distributions received from securities held in the Fund's portfolio. Distributions received from certain securities in which the Fund invests, most notably REIT securities, may be characterized for tax purposes as ordinary income, long-term capital gain and/or a return of capital. The issuer of a security reports the tax character of its distributions only once per year, generally during the first two months of the calendar year. The distribution is included in the Fund's ordinary income until such time the Fund is notified by the issuer of the actual tax character. For the fiscal year just ended, dividend income, net realized gain (loss) and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) recognized on the Statement of Operations reflect the amounts of ordinary income, capital gain, and/or return of capital as reported by the issuers of such securities.

Indemnifications

Under the Fund's organizational documents, its officers and trustees are indemnified against certain liabilities arising out of the performance of their duties to the Fund. In addition, in the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that provide general indemnifications to other parties. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. However, the Fund has not had prior claims or losses pursuant to these contracts and expects the risk of loss

to be remote.

Netting Agreements

In the ordinary course of business, the Fund may enter into transactions subject to enforceable master repurchase agreements, International Swaps and Derivative Association, Inc. (ISDA) master agreements or other similar arrangements (netting agreements). Generally, the right to offset in netting agreements allows the Fund to offset certain securities and derivatives with a specific counterparty as well as any collateral received or delivered to that counterparty based on the terms of the agreements. Generally, the Fund manages its cash collateral and securities collateral on a counterparty basis.

The Fund's investments subject to netting agreements as of the end of the reporting period, if any, are further described in Note 3 Portfolio Securities and Investments in Derivatives.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of increases and decreases in net assets from operations during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

2. Investment Valuation and Fair Value Measurements

The fair valuation input levels as described below are for fair value measurement purposes.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received upon selling an investment or transferring a liability in an orderly transaction to an independent buyer in the principal or most advantageous market for the investment. A three-tier hierarchy is used to maximize the use of observable market data and minimize the use of unobservable inputs and to establish classification of fair value measurements for disclosure purposes. Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Observable inputs are based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs are based on the best information available in the circumstances. The following is a summary of the three-tiered hierarchy of valuation input levels.

Level 1 Inputs are unadjusted and prices are determined using quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 Prices are determined using other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 Prices are determined using significant unobservable inputs (including management's assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

Common stocks and other equity-type securities are valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded and are generally classified as Level 1. Securities primarily traded on the NASDAQ National Market (NASDAQ) are valued at the NASDAQ Official Closing Price and are generally classified as Level 1. However, securities traded on a securities exchange or NASDAQ for which there were no transactions on a given day or securities not listed on a securities exchange or NASDAQ are valued at the quoted bid price and are generally classified as Level 2.

Prices of fixed-income securities are provided by a pricing service approved by the Board. The pricing service establishes a security's fair value using methods that may include consideration of the following: yields or prices of investments of comparable quality, type of issue, coupon, maturity and rating, market quotes or indications of value from security dealers, evaluations of anticipated cash flows or collateral, general market conditions and other information and analysis, including the obligor's credit characteristics considered relevant. These securities are generally classified as Level 2. In pricing certain securities, particularly less liquid and lower quality securities, the pricing service may consider information about a security, its issuer or market activity provided by the Adviser. These securities are generally classified as Level 2 or Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs.

Index options are valued at the 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) close price of the NYSE, and are generally classified as Level 1. Options traded in the over-the-counter market are valued using an evaluated mean price and are generally classified as Level 2.

Futures contracts are valued using the closing settlement price or, in the absence of such a price, the last traded price, and are generally classified as

Level 1.

Repurchase agreements are valued at contract amount plus accrued interest, which approximates market value. These securities are generally classified as Level 2.

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by the pre-established pricing methods as described above. Such securities may be valued by the Board and/or its appointee at fair value. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; debt securities that have gone into default and for which there is no current market quotation; a security whose market price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of the Fund's NAV (as may be the case in non-U.S. markets on which the security is primarily traded) or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, is not deemed to reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the fair value of a security would appear to be the amount that the owner might reasonably expect to receive for it in a current sale. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities, which may include consideration of the following: yields or prices of investments of comparable quality, type of issue, coupon, maturity and rating, market quotes or indications of value from security dealers, evaluations of anticipated cash flows or collateral, general market conditions and other information and analysis, including the obligor's credit characteristics considered relevant. These securities are generally classified as Level 2 or Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs. Regardless of the method employed to value a particular security, all valuations are subject to review by the Board and/or its appointee.

The inputs or methodologies used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risks associated with investing in those securities. The following is a summary of the Fund's fair value measurements as of the end of the reporting period:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Long-Term Investments*:				
Common Stocks	\$ 233,497,169	\$	\$	\$ 233,497,169
Short-Term Investments:				
Repurchase Agreements		1,401,528		1,401,528
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations		2,497,905		2,497,905
Investments in Derivatives:				
Options Written	(98,875)			(98,875)
Futures Contracts**	93,225			93,225
Total	\$ 233,491,519	\$ 3,899,433	\$	\$ 237,390,952

* Refer to the Fund's Portfolio of Investments for industry classifications.

** Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) as reported in the Fund's Portfolio of Investments.

The Board is responsible for the valuation process and has appointed the oversight of the daily valuation process to the Adviser's Valuation Committee. The Valuation Committee, pursuant to the valuation policies and procedures adopted by the Board, is responsible for making fair value determinations, evaluating the effectiveness of the Fund's pricing policies and reporting to the Board. The Valuation Committee is aided in its efforts by the Adviser's dedicated Securities Valuation Team, which is responsible for administering the daily valuation process and applying fair value methodologies as approved by the Valuation Committee. When determining the reliability of independent pricing services for investments owned by the Fund, the Valuation Committee, among other things, conducts due diligence reviews of the pricing services and monitors the quality of security prices received through various testing reports conducted by the Securities Valuation Team.

The Valuation Committee will consider pricing methodologies it deems relevant and appropriate when making a fair value determination, based on the facts and circumstances specific to the portfolio instrument. Fair value determinations generally will be derived as follows, using public or private market information:

- (i) If available, fair value determinations shall be derived by extrapolating from recent transactions or quoted prices for identical or comparable securities.
- (ii) If such information is not available, an analytical valuation methodology may be used based on other available information including, but not limited to: analyst appraisals, research reports, corporate action information, issuer financial statements and shelf registration statements. Such analytical valuation methodologies may include, but are not limited to: multiple of earnings, discount from market value of a similar freely-traded security, discounted cash flow analysis, book value or a multiple thereof, risk premium/yield analysis, yield to maturity and/or fundamental investment analysis.

The purchase price of a portfolio instrument will be used to fair value the instrument only if no other valuation methodology is available or deemed appropriate, and it is determined that the purchase price fairly reflects the instrument's current value.

For each portfolio security that has been fair valued pursuant to the policies adopted by the Board, the fair value price is compared against the last available and next available market quotations. The Valuation Committee reviews the results of such testing and fair valuation occurrences are reported to the Board.

3. Portfolio Securities and Investments in Derivatives

Portfolio Securities

Foreign Currency Transactions

To the extent that the Fund invests in securities and/or contracts that are denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars, the Fund will be subject to currency risk, which is the risk that an increase in the U.S. dollar relative to the foreign currency will reduce returns or portfolio value. Generally, when the U.S. dollar rises in value against a foreign currency, the Fund's investments denominated in that currency will lose value because their currency is worth fewer U.S. dollars; the opposite effect occurs if the U.S. dollar falls in relative value. Investments and other assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are converted into U.S. dollars on a spot (i.e. cash) basis at the spot rate prevailing in the foreign currency exchange market at the time of valuation. Purchases and sales of investments and income denominated in foreign currencies are translated into U.S. dollars on the respective dates of such transactions.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at 4:00p.m. ET. Investment transactions, income and expenses are translated on the respective dates of such transactions. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date of the transactions, foreign currency transactions and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amounts actually received.

The realized gains and losses resulting from changes in foreign currency exchange rates and changes in foreign exchange rates associated with (i) investments, (ii) investments in derivatives and (iii) other assets and liabilities are recognized as a component of Net realized gain (loss) from investments and foreign currency, on the Statement of Operations, when applicable.

The unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in foreign currency exchange rates and changes in foreign exchange rates associated with (i) investments and (ii) other assets and liabilities are recognized as a component of Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and foreign currency, on the Statement of Operations, when applicable. The unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates associated with investments in derivatives are recognized as a component of the respective derivative's related Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on the Statement of Operations, when applicable.

Repurchase Agreements

In connection with transactions in repurchase agreements, it is the Fund's policy that its custodian take possession of the underlying collateral securities, the fair value of which exceeds the principal amount of the repurchase transaction, including accrued interest, at all times. If the counterparty defaults, and the fair value of the collateral declines, realization of the collateral may be delayed or limited.

The following table presents the repurchase agreements for the Fund that are subject to netting agreements as of the end of the reporting period, and the collateral delivered related to those repurchase agreements.

Counterparty	Short-Term Investments, at Value	Collateral Pledged (From) Counterparty*	Net Exposure
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation	\$ 1,401,528	\$ (1,401,528)	\$

* As of the end of the reporting period, the value of the collateral pledged from the counterparty exceeded the value of the repurchase agreements. Refer to the Fund's Portfolio of Investments for details on the repurchase agreements.

Zero Coupon Securities

A zero coupon security does not pay a regular interest coupon to its holders during the life of the security. Income to the holder of the security comes from accretion of the difference between the original purchase price of the security at issuance and the par value of the security at maturity and is effectively paid at maturity. The market prices of zero coupon securities generally are more volatile than the market prices of securities that pay interest periodically.

Investments in Derivatives

The Fund is authorized to invest in certain derivative instruments, such as futures, options and swap contracts. The Fund limits its investments in futures, options on futures and swap contracts to the extent necessary for the Adviser to claim the exclusion from registration by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a commodity pool operator with respect to the Fund. The Fund records derivative instruments at fair value, with changes in fair value recognized on the Statement of Operations, when applicable. Even though the Fund's investments in derivatives may represent economic hedges, they are not considered to be hedge transactions for financial reporting purposes.

Futures Contracts

Upon execution of a futures contract, the Fund is obligated to deposit cash or eligible securities, also known as initial margin, into an account at its clearing broker equal to a specified percentage of the contract amount. Cash held by the broker to cover initial margin requirements on open futures contracts, if any, is recognized as Cash collateral at brokers on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Investments in futures contracts obligate the Fund and the clearing broker to settle monies on a daily basis representing changes in the prior days mark-to-market of the open contracts. If the Fund has unrealized appreciation the clearing broker would credit the Fund's account with an amount equal to appreciation and conversely if the Fund has unrealized depreciation the clearing broker would debit the Fund's account with an amount equal to depreciation. These daily cash settlements are also known as variation margin. Variation margin is recognized as a receivable and/or payable for Variation margin on futures contracts on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

During the period the futures contract is open, changes in the value of the contract are recognized as an unrealized gain or loss by marking-to-market on a daily basis to reflect the changes in market value of the contract, which is recognized as a component of Change in net unrealized appreciation

(depreciation) of futures contracts on the Statement of Operations. When the contract is closed or expired, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract on the closing date and value of the contract when originally entered into, which is recognized as a component of Net realized gain (loss) from futures contracts on the Statement of Operations.

Risks of investments in futures contracts include the possible adverse movement in the price of the securities or indices underlying the contracts, the possibility that there may not be a liquid secondary market for the contracts and/or that a change in the value of the contract may not correlate with a change in the value of the underlying securities or indices.

During the current fiscal period, the Fund continued to purchase equity index futures contracts to gain equity market exposure where the portfolio holds cash.

The average notional amount of futures contracts outstanding during the current fiscal period was as follows:

Average notional amount of futures contracts outstanding* \$5,767,095

* The average notional amount is calculated based on the absolute aggregate notional of contracts outstanding at the beginning of the fiscal period and at the end of each quarter within the current fiscal period.

The following table presents the fair value of all futures contracts held by the Fund as of the end of the reporting period, the location of these instruments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the primary underlying risk exposure.

Location on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Asset Derivatives		(Liability) Derivatives	Value
		Location	Value		
Equity price	Futures contracts	\$		Payable for variation margin on futures contracts*	\$93,225

* Value represents unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of futures contracts as reported in the Fund's Portfolio of Investments and not the asset and/or liability derivative location as described in the table above.

The following table presents the amount of net realized gain (loss) and change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) recognized on futures contracts on the Statement of Operations during the current fiscal period and the primary underlying risk exposure.

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Net Realized Gain (Loss) from Futures Contracts	Change in Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Futures Contracts
Equity price	Futures contracts	\$47,693	\$ 8,504
<i>Options Transactions</i>			

When the Fund writes an option, an amount equal to the net premium received (the premium less commission) is recognized as a component of Options written, at value on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and is subsequently adjusted to reflect the current value of the written option until the option is exercised or expires or the Fund enters into

a closing purchase transaction. The changes in the value of options written during the fiscal period are recognized as a component of Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of options written on the Statement of Operations. When an option is exercised or expires or the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, the difference between the net premium received and any amount paid at expiration or on executing a closing purchase transaction, including commission, is recognized as a component of Net realized gain (loss) from options written on the Statement of Operations. The Fund, as a writer of an option has no control over whether the underlying instrument may be sold (called) or purchased (put) and as a result bears the risk of an unfavorable change in the market value of the instrument or index underlying the written option. There is also the risk the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid market.

During the current fiscal period, the Fund continued to write call options on a basket of stocks and on stock indexes, while investing in a portfolio of equities, to enhance returns while foregoing some upside potential of its equity portfolio.

The average notional amount of outstanding options written during the current fiscal period was as follows:

Average notional amount of outstanding options written*	\$(98,154,189)
---	----------------

* The average notional amount is calculated based on the outstanding notional at the beginning of the fiscal period and at the end of each fiscal quarter within the current fiscal period.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

The following table presents the fair value of all options held by the Fund as of the end of the reporting period, the location of these instruments on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and the primary underlying risk exposure.

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Location on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities			
		Asset Derivatives		(Liability) Derivatives	
	Location	Value	Location	Value	
Equity price	Options	\$	Options written, at value	\$ (98,875)	

The following table presents the amount of net realized gain (loss) and change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) recognized on options written on the Statement of Operations during the current fiscal period and the primary underlying risk exposure.

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Net Realized Gain (Loss) from Options Written	Change in Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Options Written
Equity price	Options written	\$ 2,651,235	\$ 13,656

Market and Counterparty Credit Risk

In the normal course of business the Fund may invest in financial instruments and enter into financial transactions where risk of potential loss exists due to changes in the market (market risk) or failure of the other party to the transaction to perform (counterparty credit risk). The potential loss could exceed the value of the financial assets recorded on the financial statements. Financial assets, which potentially expose the Fund to counterparty credit risk, consist principally of cash due from counterparties on forward, option and swap transactions, when applicable. The extent of the Fund's exposure to counterparty credit risk in respect to these financial assets approximates their carrying value as recorded on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The Fund helps manage counterparty credit risk by entering into agreements only with counterparties the Adviser believes have the financial resources to honor their obligations and by having the Adviser monitor the financial stability of the counterparties. Additionally, counterparties may be required to pledge collateral daily (based on the daily valuation of the financial asset) on behalf of the Fund with a value approximately equal to the amount of any unrealized gain above a pre-determined threshold. Reciprocally, when the Fund has an unrealized loss, the Fund has instructed the custodian to pledge assets of the Fund as collateral with a value approximately equal to the amount of the unrealized loss above a pre-determined threshold. Collateral pledges are monitored and subsequently adjusted if and when the valuations fluctuate, either up or down, by at least the pre-determined threshold amount.

4. Fund Shares*Share Transactions*

The Fund did not have any transactions in shares during the current and prior fiscal period.

5. Investment Transactions

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

Long-term purchases and sales (excluding derivative transactions) during the current fiscal period, aggregated \$248,166,381 and \$285,665,540, respectively.

Transactions in options written during the current fiscal period were as follows:

	Number of Contracts	Premiums Received
Options outstanding, beginning of period	437,089	\$ 700,107
Options written	1,365,051	12,423,274
Options terminated in closing purchase transactions	(720,602)	(10,466,997)
Options expired	(1,080,838)	(2,384,813)
Options outstanding, end of period	700	\$ 271,571

6. Income Tax Information

The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its net investment company taxable income to shareholders and to otherwise comply with the requirements of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies. In any year when the Fund realizes net capital gains, the Fund may choose to distribute all or a portion of its net capital gains to shareholders, or alternatively, to retain all or a portion of its net capital gains and pay federal corporate income taxes on such retained gains.

For all open tax years and all major taxing jurisdictions, management of the Fund has concluded that there are no significant uncertain tax positions that would require recognition in the financial statements. Open tax years are those that are open for examination by taxing authorities (i.e., generally the last four tax year ends and the interim tax period since then). Furthermore, management of the Fund is also not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably possible that the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next twelve months.

The following information is presented on an income tax basis. Differences between amounts for financial statement and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses on investment transactions and the recognition of unrealized gain or loss for tax (mark-to-market) on futures contracts and certain options contracts. To the extent that differences arise that are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the capital accounts as detailed below. Temporary differences do not require reclassification. Temporary and permanent differences do not impact the NAV of the Fund.

As of December 31, 2015, the cost and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments (excluding investments in derivatives), as determined on a federal income tax basis, were as follows:

Cost of investments	\$ 211,897,788
Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 30,664,737
Depreciation	(5,165,923)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$ 25,498,814

Permanent differences, primarily due to Real Estate Investment Trust adjustments, resulted in reclassifications among the Fund's components of net assets as of December 31, 2015, the Fund's tax year-end, as follows:

Paid-in surplus	\$ 1
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income	88,967
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	(88,968)

The tax components of undistributed net ordinary income and net long-term capital gains as of December 31, 2015, the Fund's tax year end, were as follows:

Undistributed net ordinary income	\$
Undistributed net long-term capital gains	7,093,400

The tax character of distributions paid during the Fund's tax years ended December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2014 was designated for purposes of the dividends paid deduction as follows:

2015

Distributions from net ordinary income ¹	\$ 1,549,211
Distributions from net long-term capital gains ²	42,507,221

2014

Distributions from net ordinary income ¹	\$ 7,909,307
---	--------------

Distributions from net long-term capital gains 32,330,760

- ¹ Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends and interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.
- ² The Fund designates as long-term capital gain dividend, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code 852(b)(3), the amount necessary to reduce earnings and profits of the Fund related to net capital gain to zero for the tax year ended December 31, 2015.

7. Management Fees and Other Transactions with Affiliates

The Fund's management fee compensates the Adviser for overall investment advisory and administrative services and general office facilities. The Sub-Advisers are compensated for their services to the Fund from the management fees paid to the Adviser.

The Fund's management fee consists of two components – a fund-level fee, based only on the amount of assets within the Fund, and a complex-level fee, based on the aggregate amount of all eligible fund assets managed by the Adviser. This pricing structure enables Fund shareholders to benefit from growth in the assets within the Fund as well as from growth in the amount of complex-wide assets managed by the Adviser.

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

The annual Fund-level fee, payable monthly, is calculated according to the following schedule:

Average Daily Managed Assets*	Fund-Level Fee
For the first \$500 million	0.7500%
For the next \$500 million	0.7250
For the next \$500 million	0.7000
For the next \$500 million	0.6750
For managed assets over \$2 billion	0.6500

The annual complex-level fee, payable monthly, is calculated according to the following schedule:

Complex-Level Managed Asset Breakpoint Level*	Effective Rate at Breakpoint Level
\$55 billion	0.2000%
\$56 billion	0.1996
\$57 billion	0.1989
\$60 billion	0.1961
\$63 billion	0.1931
\$66 billion	0.1900
\$71 billion	0.1851
\$76 billion	0.1806
\$80 billion	0.1773
\$91 billion	0.1691
\$125 billion	0.1599
\$200 billion	0.1505
\$250 billion	0.1469
\$300 billion	0.1445

* For the fund-level and complex-level fees, managed assets include closed-end fund assets managed by the Adviser that are attributable to certain types of leverage. For these purposes, leverage includes the funds' use of preferred stock and borrowings and certain investments in the residual interest certificates (also called inverse floating rate securities) in tender option bond (TOB) trusts, including the portion of assets held by a TOB trust that has been effectively financed by the trust's issuance of floating rate securities, subject to an agreement by the Adviser as to certain funds to limit the amount of such assets for determining managed assets in certain circumstances. The complex-level fee is calculated based upon the aggregate daily managed assets of all Nuveen funds that constitute eligible assets. Eligible assets do not include assets attributable to investments in other Nuveen funds or assets in excess of \$2 billion added to the Nuveen fund complex in connection with the Adviser's assumption of the management of the former First American Funds effective January 1, 2011. As of December 31, 2015, the complex-level fee for the Fund was 0.1639%.

The Fund pays no compensation directly to those of its trustees who are affiliated with the Adviser or to its officers, all of whom receive remuneration for their services to the Fund from the Adviser or its affiliates. The Board has adopted a deferred compensation plan for independent trustees that enables trustees to elect to defer receipt of all or a portion of the annual compensation they are entitled to receive from certain Nuveen-advised funds. Under the plan, deferred amounts are treated as though equal dollar amounts had been invested in shares of select Nuveen-advised funds.

34 Nuveen Investments

Additional

Fund Information (Unaudited)

Board of Trustees

William Adams IV*	Jack B. Evans	William C. Hunter	David J. Kundert	John K. Nelson	William J. Schneider
Thomas S. Schreier, Jr.*	Judith M. Stockdale	Carole E. Stone	Terence J. Toth	Margaret L. Wolff**	

*Interested Board Member.

**Effective February 15, 2016.

Fund Manager	Custodian	Legal Counsel	Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	Transfer Agent and Shareholder Services
Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC	State Street Bank & Trust Company	Chapman and Cutler LLP Chicago, IL 60603	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chicago, IL 60606	State Street Bank & Trust Company Nuveen Funds P.O. Box 43071 Providence, RI 02940-3071 (800) 257-8787
333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Boston, MA 02111			

Distribution Information

The Fund hereby designates its percentage of dividends paid from net ordinary income as dividends qualifying for the 70% dividends received deduction (DRD) for corporations and its percentage as qualified dividend income (QDI) for individuals under Section 1(h)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code as shown in the accompanying table. The actual qualified dividend income distributions will be reported to shareholders on Form 1099-DIV which will be sent to shareholders shortly after calendar year end.

	JCE
% QDI	100%
% DRD	100%

Quarterly Form N-Q Portfolio of Investments Information

The Fund is required to file its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the first and third quarters of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. You may obtain this information directly from the SEC. Visit the SEC on-line at <http://www.sec.gov> or in person at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, D.C. Call the SEC toll-free at (800) SEC-0330 for room hours and operation.

Nuveen Funds Proxy Voting Information

You may obtain (i) information regarding how each fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, without charge, upon request, by calling Nuveen Investments toll-free at (800) 257-8787 or on Nuveen's website at www.nuveen.com and (ii) a description of the policies and procedures that each fund used to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities without charge, upon request, by calling Nuveen Investments toll free at (800) 257-8787. You may also obtain this information directly from the SEC. Visit the SEC on-line at <http://www.sec.gov>.

CEO Certification Disclosure

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has submitted to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) the annual CEO certification as required by Section 303A.12(a) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual. The Fund has filed with the SEC the certification of its CEO and Chief Financial Officer required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

Share Repurchase

The Fund intends to repurchase, through its open-market share repurchase program, shares of its own common stock at such times and in such amounts as is deemed advisable. During the period covered by this report, the Fund repurchased shares of its common stock, as shown in the accompanying table. Any future repurchases will be reported to shareholders in the next annual or semi-annual report.

	JCE
Shares repurchased	

FINRA BrokerCheck

The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) provides information regarding the disciplinary history of FINRA member firms and associated investment professionals. This information as well as an investor brochure describing FINRA BrokerCheck is available to the public by calling the FINRA BrokerCheck Hotline number at (800) 289-9999 or by visiting www.FINRA.org.

Glossary of Terms

Used in this Report

- n **Average Annual Total Return:** This is a commonly used method to express an investment's performance over a particular, usually multi-year time period. It expresses the return that would have been necessary each year to equal the investment's actual cumulative performance (including change in NAV or market price and reinvested dividends and capital gains distributions, if any) over the time period being considered.

- n **Blended Index:** A blend of returns consisting of 1) 50% of the S&P 500[®] Index and 2) 50% of the CBOE S&P 500[®] Buy/write Index(BXM), which is a passive total return index based on selling the near-term, at-the-money S&P 500[®] Index (SPX) call option against the S&P 500[®] Index portfolio each month, on the day the current contract expires. Index returns assume reinvestment of distributions, but do not include the effects of any applicable sales charges or management fees.

- n **Gross Domestic Product (GDP):** The total market value of all final goods and services produced in a country/region in a given year, equal to total consumer, investment and government spending, plus the value of exports, minus the value of imports.

- n **Net Asset Value (NAV) Per Share:** A fund's Net Assets is equal to its total assets (securities, cash, accrued earnings and receivables) less its total liabilities. NAV per share is equal to the fund's Net Assets divided by its number of shares outstanding.

- n **S&P 500[®] Index:** An unmanaged index generally considered representative of the U.S. stock market. Index returns assume reinvestment of distributions, but do not reflect any applicable sales charges or management fees.

Reinvest Automatically,

Easily and Conveniently

Nuveen makes reinvesting easy. A phone call is all it takes to set up your reinvestment account.

Nuveen Closed-End Funds Automatic Reinvestment Plan

Your Nuveen Closed-End Fund allows you to conveniently reinvest distributions in additional Fund shares.

By choosing to reinvest, you will be able to invest money regularly and automatically, and watch your investment grow through the power of compounding. Just like distributions in cash, there may be times when income or capital gains taxes may be payable on distributions that are reinvested.

It is important to note that an automatic reinvestment plan does not ensure a profit, nor does it protect you against loss in a declining market.

Easy and convenient

To make recordkeeping easy and convenient, each quarter you will receive a statement showing your total distributions, the date of investment, the shares acquired and the price per share, and the total number of shares you own.

How shares are purchased

The shares you acquire by reinvesting will either be purchased on the open market or newly issued by the Fund. If the shares are trading at or above net asset value at the time of valuation, the Fund will issue new shares at the greater of the net asset value or 95% of the then-current market price. If the shares are trading at less than net asset value, shares for your account will be purchased on the open market. If the Plan Agent begins purchasing Fund shares on the open market while shares are trading below net asset value, but the Fund's shares subsequently trade at or above their net asset value before the Plan Agent is able to complete its purchases, the Plan Agent may cease open-market purchases and may invest the uninvested portion of the distribution in newly-issued Fund shares at a price equal to the greater of the shares' net asset value or 95% of the shares' market value on the last business day immediately prior to the purchase date. Distributions received to purchase shares in the open market will normally be invested shortly after the distribution payment date. No interest will be paid on distributions awaiting reinvestment. Because the market price of the shares may increase before purchases are completed, the average purchase price per share may exceed the market price at the time of valuation, resulting in the acquisition of fewer shares than if the distribution had been paid in shares issued by the Fund. A pro rata portion of any applicable brokerage commissions on open market purchases will be paid by Plan participants. These commissions usually will be lower than those charged on individual transactions.

Flexible

You may change your distribution option or withdraw from the Plan at any time, should your needs or situation change.

You can reinvest whether your shares are registered in your name, or in the name of a brokerage firm, bank, or other nominee. Ask your investment advisor if his or her firm will participate on your behalf. Participants whose shares are registered in the name of one firm may not be able to transfer the shares to another firm and continue to participate in the Plan.

The Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan at any time. Although the Fund reserves the right to amend the Plan to include a service charge payable by the participants, there is no direct service charge to participants in the Plan at this time.

Call today to start reinvesting distributions

For more information on the Nuveen Automatic Reinvestment Plan or to enroll in or withdraw from the Plan, speak with your financial advisor or call us at (800) 257-8787.

Board**Members & Officers** (Unaudited)

The management of the Funds, including general supervision of the duties performed for the Funds by the Adviser, is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees of the Funds. The number of trustees of the Funds is currently set at eleven. None of the trustees who are not interested persons of the Funds (referred to herein as independent trustees) has ever been a director or employee of, or consultant to, Nuveen or its affiliates. The names and business addresses of the trustees and officers of the Funds, their principal occupations and other affiliations during the past five years, the number of portfolios each oversees and other directorships they hold are set forth below.

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed and Term⁽¹⁾	Principal Occupation(s) Including other Directorships During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member
--	--	---	--	--

Independent Board Members:

n WILLIAM J. SCHNEIDER 1944 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Chairman and Board Member	1996 Class III	Chairman of Miller-Valentine Partners, a real estate investment company; formerly, Senior Partner and Chief Operating Officer (retired (2004) of Miller-Valentine Group; an owner in several other Miller Valentine entities; Board Member of Med-America Health System, and WDPR Public Radio station; formerly, member, Business Advisory Council, Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank and University of Dayton Business School Advisory Council	197
n JACK B. EVANS 1948 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	1999 Class III	President, The Hall-Perrine Foundation, a private philanthropic corporation (since 1996); Director and Chairman, United Fire Group, a publicly held company; formerly, President Pro-Tem of the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa University System; Director, Source Media Group; Life Trustee of Coe College; formerly, Director, Alliant Energy; formerly, Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; formerly, President and Chief Operating Officer,	197

SCI Financial Group, Inc., a regional financial services firm.

n WILLIAM C. HUNTER
1948

Board Member **2004**
Class I

333 W. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Dean Emeritus, formerly, Dean, Tippie College of Business, University of Iowa (2006-2012); Director (since 2004) of Xerox Corporation; Director (since 2005), and past President (2010-2014) Beta Gamma Sigma, Inc., The International Business Honor Society; Director of Wellmark, Inc. (since 2009); formerly, Dean and Distinguished Professor of Finance, School of Business at the University of Connecticut (2003-2006); previously, Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (1995-2003); formerly, Director (1997-2007), Credit Research Center at Georgetown University.

197

n DAVID J. KUNDERT
1942

Board Member **2005**
Class II

333 W. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606

Formerly, Director, Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company (2006-2013), retired (since 2004) as Chairman, JPMorgan Fleming Asset Management, President and CEO, Banc One Investment Advisors Corporation, and President, One Group Mutual Funds; prior thereto, Executive Vice President, Banc One Corporation and Chairman and CEO, Banc One Investment Management Group; Regent Emeritus, Member of Investment Committee, Luther College; member of the Wisconsin Bar Association; member of Board of Directors and Chair of Investment Committee, Greater Milwaukee Foundation; member of the Board of Directors (Milwaukee), College Possible

197

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed⁽¹⁾	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member
--	--	--	--	--

Independent Board Members (continued):

JOHN K. NELSON 1962 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	2013 Class II	Member of Board of Directors of Core12 LLC (since 2008), a private firm which develops branding, marketing and communications strategies for clients; Director of The Curran Center for Catholic American Studies (since 2009) and The President's Council, Fordham University (since 2010); formerly, senior external advisor to the financial services practice of Deloitte Consulting LLP (2012- 2014); formerly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Marian University (2010 as trustee, 2011-2014 as Chairman); formerly, Chief Executive Officer of ABN AMRO N.V. North America, and Global Head of its Financial Markets Division (2007-2008); prior senior positions held at ABN AMRO include Corporate Executive Vice President and Head of Global Markets-the Americas (2006- 2007), CEO of Wholesale Banking North America and Global Head of Foreign Exchange and Futures Markets (2001-2006), and Regional Commercial Treasurer and Senior Vice President Trading North America (1996-2001); formerly, Trustee at St. Edmund Preparatory School in New York City.	197
JUDITH M. STOCKDALE 1947 333 W. Wacker Drive	Board Member	1997 Class I	Board Member, Land Trust Alliance (since 2013) and U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (since 2013); formerly, Executive Director (1994-2012), Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; prior thereto, Executive Director, Great Lakes	197

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

Chicago, IL 60606			Protection Fund (1990-1994).
n CAROLE E. STONE 1947	Board Member	2007 Class I	Director, Chicago Board Options Exchange, Inc. (since 2006); Director, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (since 2009); Director, CBOE Holdings, Inc. (since 2010); formerly, Commissioner, New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform (2005-2010).
333 W. Wacker Drive			
Chicago, IL 60606			
n TERENCE J. TOTH 1959	Board Member	2008 Class II	Managing Partner, Promus Capital (since 2008); Director, Fulcrum IT Service LLC (since 2010), Quality Control Corporation (since 2012) and LogicMark LLC (since 2012); formerly, Director, Legal & General Investment Management America, Inc. (2008-2013); formerly, CEO and President, Northern Trust Global Investments (2004-2007); Executive Vice President, Quantitative Management & Securities Lending (2000-2004); prior thereto, various positions with Northern Trust Company (since 1994); member: Chicago Fellowship Board (since 2005), Catalyst Schools of Chicago Board (since 2008) and Mather Foundation Board (since 2012), and chair of its investment committee; formerly, Member, Northern Trust Mutual Funds Board (2005-2007), Northern Trust Global Investments Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Japan Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Securities Inc. Board (2003-2007) and Northern Trust Hong Kong Board (1997-2004).
333 W. Wacker Drive			
Chicago, IL 60606			
n MARGARET L. WOLFF 1955	Board Member	2016 Class I	Member of the Board of Directors (since 2013) of Travelers Insurance Company of Canada and The Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company (each, a part of Travelers Canada, the Canadian operation of The Travelers Companies, Inc.); formerly, Of Counsel, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (Mergers & Acquisitions Group) (2005-2014); Member of the Board of Trustees of New York-Presbyterian Hospital (since
333 W. Wacker Drive			
Chicago, IL 60606			

2005); Member (since 2004) and Chair (since 2015) of the Board of Trustees of The John A. Hartford Foundation (a philanthropy dedicated to improving the care of older adults); formerly, Member (2005-2015) and Vice Chair (2011-2015) of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Holyoke College.

Board Members & Officers (continued)

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed ⁽¹⁾	Principal Occupation(s) Including other Directorships During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--	---	---

Interested Board Members:

<p>n WILLIAM ADAMS IV⁽²⁾ 1955 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	Board Member	2013 Class II	<p>Senior Executive Vice President, Global Structured Products (since 2010); formerly, Executive Vice President, U.S. Structured Products, of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (1999-2010); Co-President of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (since 2011); Executive Vice President of Nuveen Securities, LLC; President (since 2011), formerly, Managing Director (2010-2011) of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC; Board Member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and of Gilda's Club Chicago.</p>	197
<p>n THOMAS S. SCHREIER, JR.⁽²⁾ 1962 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	Board Member	2013 Class III	<p>Vice Chairman, Wealth Management of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (since 2011); Co-President of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Chairman of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (since 2011); Co-Chief Executive Officer of Nuveen Securities, LLC (since 2011); Member of Board of Governors and Chairman's Council of the Investment Company Institute; Director of Allina Health and a member of its Finance, Audit and Investment Committees; formerly, Chief Executive Officer (2000-2010) and Chief Investment Officer (2007-2010) of FAF Advisors, Inc.; formerly, President of First American Funds (2001-2010).</p>	197

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed ⁽³⁾	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
-------------------------------------	------------------------------------	--	---	---

Officers of the Funds:

n GIFFORD R. ZIMMERMAN 1956 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Chief Administrative Officer	1988	Managing Director (since 2002), and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2004) and Assistant Secretary (since 1994) of Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Managing Director (since 2002), Assistant Secretary (since 1997) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (since 2011); Managing Director and Assistant Secretary of Symphony Asset Management LLC (since 2003); Vice President and Assistant Secretary of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC (since 2002), Nuveen Investments Advisers Inc. (since 2002), Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC (since 2006), and of Winslow Capital Management, LLC, (since 2010); Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2013), formerly, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Compliance Officer (2006-2013) of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC; Chartered Financial Analyst.	198
n CEDRIC H. ANTOSIEWICZ 1962 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President	2007	Managing Director of Nuveen Securities, LLC. (since 2004); Managing Director of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (since 2014).	90

**n MARGO L.
COOK**
1964

Vice President **2009**

333 W. Wacker
Drive

Chicago, IL 60606

Senior Executive Vice President of
Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Executive
Vice President, Investment Services
of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC **198**
(since 2011); Managing Director
Investment Services of Nuveen
Commodities Asset Management,
LLC (since 2011); Co-Chief
Executive Officer (since 2015);
previously, Executive Vice
President (2013-2015) of Nuveen
Securities, LLC; Chartered Financial
Analyst.

40 Nuveen Investments

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed⁽³⁾	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
--	--	--	--	---

Officers of the Funds (continued):

n LORNA C. FERGUSON 1945 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President	1998	Managing Director (since 2004) of Nuveen Investments Holdings, Inc.	198
n STEPHEN D. FOY 1954 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Controller	1998	Managing Director (since 2014), formerly, Senior Vice President (2013-2014) and Vice President (2005-2013) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Chief Financial Officer of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC (since 2010); Certified Public Accountant.	198
n SHERRI A. HLAVACEK 1962 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Treasurer	2015	Executive Vice President (since May 2015, formerly, Managing Director) and Controller of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director and Controller of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC; Executive Vice President (since May 2015, formerly, Managing Director), Treasurer and Controller of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Executive Vice President, Principal Financial Officer (since July 2015, formerly, Managing Director), Treasurer and Corporate Controller of Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Executive Vice President (since May 2015, formerly, Managing Director), Treasurer and Corporate Controller of Nuveen Investments Advisers Inc. and Nuveen Investments	198

<p>n WALTER M. KELLY 1970 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	<p>Chief Compliance Officer and Vice President 2003</p>	<p>Holdings, Inc.; Managing Director, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Controller of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Vice President, Controller and Treasurer of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC; Vice President and Controller of Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC, Tradewinds Global Investors, LLC, Symphony Asset Management LLC and Winslow Capital Management, LLC; Certified Public Accountant. Senior Vice President (since 2008) of Nuveen Investment Holdings, Inc.</p>	<p>198</p>
<p>n TINA M. LAZAR 1961 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	<p>Vice President 2002</p>	<p>Senior Vice President of Nuveen Investments Holdings, Inc. and Nuveen Securities, LLC.</p>	<p>198</p>
<p>n KEVIN J. MCCARTHY 1966 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	<p>Vice President and Secretary 2007</p>	<p>Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (since 2008), Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2008), Assistant Secretary since 2007) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Managing Director and Assistant Secretary, Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Vice President (since 2007) and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Investments Advisers Inc., NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, Symphony Asset Management LLC, Santa Barbara</p>	<p>198</p>

**n KATHLEEN L.
PRUDHOMME**

1953

901 Marquette
Avenue

Minneapolis, MN
55402

Vice President
and Assistant
Secretary

2011

Asset Management, LLC, and of
Winslow Capital Management,
LLC. (since 2010); Vice President
and Secretary (since 2010) of
Nuveen Commodities Asset
Management, LLC.

Managing Director, Assistant
Secretary and Co-General Counsel
(since 2011) of Nuveen Fund
Advisors, LLC; Managing
Director, Assistant Secretary and
Associate General Counsel (since
2011) of Nuveen Asset
Management, LLC; Managing
Director and Assistant Secretary
(since 2011) of Nuveen Securities,
LLC; formerly, Deputy General
Counsel, FAF Advisors, Inc.
(2004-2010).

198

Board Members & Officers (continued)

Name, Year of Birth & Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed⁽³⁾	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
--	--	--	--	---

Officers of the Funds (continued):

n JOEL T. SLAGER 1978 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	2013	Fund Tax Director for Nuveen Funds (since 2013); previously, Vice President of Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Inc., Assistant Treasurer of the Morgan Stanley Funds (from 2010 to 2013).	198
--	--	-------------	--	------------

- (1) The Board Members serve three year terms. The Board of Trustees is divided into three classes. Class I, Class II, and Class III, with each being elected to serve until the third succeeding annual shareholders meeting subsequent to its election or thereafter in each case when its respective successors are duly elected or appointed. The first year elected or appointed represents the year in which the board member was first elected or appointed to any fund in the Nuveen Complex.
- (2) Interested person as defined in the 1940 Act, by reason of his position with Nuveen Investments, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries, which are affiliates of the Nuveen Funds.
- (3) Officers serve one year terms through August of each year. The year first elected or appointed represents the year in which the Officer was first elected or appointed to any fund in the Nuveen Complex.

Notes

Nuveen Investments 43

Nuveen Investments:

Serving Investors for Generations

Since 1898, financial advisors and their clients have relied on Nuveen Investments to provide dependable investment solutions through continued adherence to proven, long-term investing principles. Today, we offer a range of high quality equity and fixed-income solutions designed to be integral components of a well-diversified core portfolio.

Focused on meeting investor needs.

Nuveen Investments provides high-quality investment services designed to help secure the long-term goals of institutional and individual investors as well as the consultants and financial advisors who serve them. Nuveen Investments markets a wide range of specialized investment solutions which provide investors access to capabilities of its high-quality boutique investment affiliates Nuveen Asset Management, Symphony Asset Management, NWQ Investment Management Company, Santa Barbara Asset Management, Tradewinds Global Investors, Winslow Capital Management and Gresham Investment Management. In total, Nuveen Investments managed approximately \$225 billion as of December 31, 2015.

Find out how we can help you.

To learn more about how the products and services of Nuveen Investments may be able to help you meet your financial goals, talk to your financial advisor, or call us at **(800) 257-8787**. Please read the information provided carefully before you invest. Investors should consider the investment objective and policies, risk considerations,

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

charges and expenses of any investment carefully. Where applicable, be sure to obtain a prospectus, which contains this and other relevant information. To obtain a prospectus, please contact your securities representative or **Nuveen Investments, 333 W. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606**. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

Learn more about Nuveen Funds at: www.nuveen.com/cef

Distributed by Nuveen Securities, LLC | 333 West Wacker Drive | Chicago, IL 60606 | www.nuveen.com/cef

EAN-I-1215D 14099-INV-Y-02/17

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

As of the end of the period covered by this report, the registrant has adopted a code of ethics that applies to the registrant's principal executive officer, principal financial officer, principal accounting officer or controller, or persons performing similar functions. There were no amendments to or waivers from the Code during the period covered by this report. The registrant has posted the code of ethics on its website at www.nuveen.com/CEF/Shareholder/FundGovernance.aspx. (To view the code, click on Code of Conduct.)

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

The registrant's Board of Directors or Trustees (" Board ") determined that the registrant has at least one audit committee financial expert (as defined in Item 3 of Form N-CSR) serving on its Audit Committee. The registrant's audit committee financial experts are Carole E. Stone and Jack B. Evans, who are independent for purposes of Item 3 of Form N-CSR.

Ms. Stone served for five years as Director of the New York State Division of the Budget. As part of her role as Director, Ms. Stone was actively involved in overseeing the development of the State's operating, local assistance and capital budgets, its financial plan and related documents; overseeing the development of the State's bond-related disclosure documents and certifying that they fairly presented the State's financial position; reviewing audits of various State and local agencies and programs; and coordinating the State's system of internal audit and control. Prior to serving as Director, Ms. Stone worked as a budget analyst/examiner with increasing levels of responsibility over a 30 year period, including approximately five years as Deputy Budget Director. Ms. Stone has also served as Chair of the New York State Racing Association Oversight Board, as Chair of the Public Authorities Control Board, as a Commissioner on the New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform and as a member of the Boards of Directors of several New York State public authorities. These positions have involved overseeing operations and finances of certain entities and assessing the adequacy of project/entity financing and financial reporting. Currently, Ms. Stone is on the Board of Directors of CBOE Holdings, Inc., of the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and of C2 Options Exchange. Ms. Stone's position on the boards of these entities and as a member of both CBOE Holdings' Audit Committee and its Finance Committee has involved, among other things, the oversight of audits, audit plans and preparation of financial statements.

Mr. Evans was formerly President and Chief Operating Officer of SCI Financial Group, Inc., a full service registered broker-dealer and registered investment adviser (" SCI "). As part of his role as President and Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Evans actively supervised the Chief Financial Officer (the " CFO ") and actively supervised the CFO's preparation of financial statements and other filings with various regulatory authorities. In such capacity, Mr. Evans was actively involved in the preparation of SCI's financial statements and the resolution of issues raised in connection therewith. Mr. Evans has also served on the audit committee of various reporting companies. At such companies, Mr. Evans was involved in the oversight of audits, audit plans, and the preparation of financial statements. Mr. Evans also formerly chaired the audit committee of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

NUVEEN CORE EQUITY ALPHA FUND

The following tables show the amount of fees that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Fund's auditor, billed to the Fund during the Fund's last two full fiscal years. For engagements with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the Audit Committee approved in advance all audit services and non-audit services that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP provided to the Fund, except for those non-audit services that were subject to the pre-approval exception under Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X (the " pre-approval exception "). The pre-approval exception for services provided directly to the Fund waives the pre-approval requirement for services other than audit, review or attest services if: (A) the aggregate amount of all

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

such services provided constitutes no more than 5% of the total amount of revenues paid by the Fund to its accountant during the fiscal year in which the services are provided; (B) the Fund did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and (C) the services are promptly brought to the Audit Committee's attention, and the Committee (or its delegate) approves the services before the audit is completed.

The Audit Committee has delegated certain pre-approval responsibilities to its Chairman (or, in his absence, any other member of the Audit Committee).

SERVICES THAT THE FUND'S AUDITOR BILLED TO THE FUND

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit-Related Fees			
	Audit Fees Billed to Fund ¹	Billed to Fund ²	Tax Fees Billed to Fund ³	All Other Fees Billed to Fund ⁴
December 31, 2015	\$ 31,460	\$ 687	\$ 2,170	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%	0%
December 31, 2014	\$ 30,640	\$ 0	\$ 810	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%	0%

¹ Audit Fees are the aggregate fees billed for professional services for the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements and services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.

² Audit Related Fees are the aggregate fees billed for assurance and related services reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of financial statements that are not reported under Audit Fees. These fees include offerings related to the Fund's common shares and leverage.

³ Tax Fees are the aggregate fees billed for professional services for tax advice, tax compliance, and tax planning. These fees include: all global withholding tax services; excise and state tax reviews; capital gain, tax equalization and taxable basis calculation performed by the principal accountant.

⁴ All Other Fees are the aggregate fees billed for products and services other than Audit Fees, Audit-Related Fees and Tax Fees. These fees represent all Agreed-Upon Procedures engagements pertaining to the Fund's use of leverage.

SERVICES THAT THE FUND'S AUDITOR BILLED TO THE ADVISER AND AFFILIATED FUND SERVICE PROVIDERS

The following tables show the amount of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (formerly Nuveen Fund Advisors, Inc.) (the Adviser), and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser that provides ongoing services to the Fund (Affiliated Fund Service Provider), for

engagements directly related to the Fund's operations and financial reporting, during the Fund's last two full fiscal years.

The tables also show the percentage of fees subject to the pre-approval exception. The pre-approval exception for services provided to the Adviser and any Affiliated Fund Service Provider (other than audit, review or attest services) waives the pre-approval requirement if: (A) the aggregate amount of all such services provided constitutes no more than 5% of the total amount of revenues paid to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP by the Fund, the Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers during the fiscal year in which the services are provided that would have to be pre-approved by the Audit Committee; (B) the Fund did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and (C) the services are promptly brought to the Audit Committee's attention, and the Committee (or its delegate) approves the services before the Fund's audit is completed.

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit-Related Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	Tax Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	All Other Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers
December 31, 2015	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%
December 31, 2014	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%

NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The following table shows the amount of fees that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed during the Fund's last two full fiscal years for non-audit services. The Audit Committee is required to pre-approve non-audit services that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP provides to the Adviser and any Affiliated Fund Services Provider, if the engagement related directly to the Fund's operations and financial reporting (except for those subject to the pre-approval exception described above). The Audit Committee requested and received information from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP about any non-audit services that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP rendered during the Fund's last fiscal year to the Adviser and any Affiliated Fund Service Provider. The Committee considered this information in evaluating PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP's independence.

Fiscal Year Ended	Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (engagements related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund)		Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (all other engagements)		Total
	Billed to Fund	Providers	Billed to Fund	Providers	
December 31, 2015	\$ 2,170	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 2,170
December 31, 2014	\$ 810	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 810

Non-Audit Fees billed to Fund for both fiscal year ends represent Tax Fees and All Other Fees billed to Fund in their respective amounts from the previous table.

Less than 50 percent of the hours expended on the principal accountant's engagement to audit the registrant's financial statements for the most recent fiscal year were attributed to work performed by persons other than the principal accountant's full-time, permanent employees.

Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policies and Procedures. Generally, the Audit Committee must approve (i) all non-audit services to be performed for the Fund by the Fund's independent accountants and (ii) all audit and non-audit services to be performed by the Fund's independent accountants for the Affiliated Fund Service Providers with respect to operations and financial reporting of the Fund. Regarding tax and research projects conducted by the independent accountants for the Fund and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (with respect to operations and financial reports of the Fund) such engagements will be (i) pre-approved by the Audit Committee if they are expected to be for amounts greater than \$10,000; (ii) reported to the Audit Committee chairman for his verbal approval prior to engagement if they are expected to be for amounts under \$10,000 but greater than \$5,000; and (iii) reported to the Audit Committee at the next Audit Committee meeting if they are expected to be for an amount under \$5,000.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

The registrant's Board has a separately designated Audit Committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)(58)(A)). The members of the audit committee are Jack B. Evans, David J. Kundert, John K. Nelson, Carole E. Stone and Terence J. Toth.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

(a) See Portfolio of Investments in Item 1.

(b) Not applicable.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, (NFALLC) is the registrant's investment adviser (NFALLC is also referred to as the Adviser). NFALLC is responsible for the selection and on-going monitoring of the Fund's investment portfolio, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain clerical, bookkeeping and administrative services. The Adviser has engaged INTECH Investment Management LLC (INTECH) and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (Nuveen Asset Management) (INTECH and Nuveen Asset Management are also collectively referred to as Sub-Advisers), as Sub-Advisers to provide discretionary investment advisory services. As part of these services, the Adviser has also delegated to the Sub-Adviser the full responsibility for proxy voting on securities held in its portfolio and related duties in accordance with the Sub-Adviser's policy and procedures. The Adviser periodically will monitor the Sub-Adviser's voting to ensure that it is carrying out its duties. Each Sub-Adviser's proxy voting policies and procedures are attached to this filing as an exhibit and incorporated herein by reference or summarized below.

INTECH

The Fund is responsible for voting proxies on securities held in its portfolio. When the Fund receives a proxy, the decision regarding how to vote such proxy will be made by INTECH in accordance with its proxy voting procedures.

INTECH has engaged Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. (ISS), to vote all Fund proxies in accordance with ISS Benchmark Proxy Voting Guidelines (ISS Recommendations). INTECH has engaged the services of the Janus Securities Operations Group to oversee ISS in the administration of its proxy voting. INTECH has adopted procedures and controls to avoid conflicts of interest that may arise in connection with proxy voting.

In light of such procedures and controls, it is not expected that any conflicts will arise in the proxy voting process. In the unusual circumstance that a particular proxy vote may present a potential conflict, the matter shall be referred to INTECH's Proxy Review Group, which is composed of INTECH's Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Compliance Officer. To the extent that a conflict of interest is identified, INTECH will vote the proxy according to the ISS recommendation unless otherwise determined by the Proxy Review Group and INTECH will report the resolution of the vote to the Fund's Proxy Voting Committee.

ITEM 8. PORTFOLIO MANAGERS OF CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (NFALLC) is the registrant's investment adviser (NFALLC is also referred to as the Adviser). NFALLC is responsible for the selection and on-going monitoring of the Fund's investment portfolio, managing the Fund's business affairs and providing certain clerical, bookkeeping and administrative services. The Adviser has engaged INTECH Investment Management LLC (INTECH) and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (Nuveen Asset Management) (INTECH and Nuveen Asset Management are also collectively referred to as Sub-Advisers), as Sub-Advisers to provide discretionary investment advisory services. The following section provides information on the portfolio managers at each Sub-Adviser:

Nuveen Asset Management

Item 8(a)(1). PORTFOLIO MANAGER BIOGRAPHIES

Mr. Hembre, Managing Director of Nuveen Asset Management, entered the financial services industry in 1992. He joined Nuveen Asset Management, LLC in January 2011 following the firm's acquisition of a portion of the asset management business of FAF Advisors, Inc. (FAF Advisors) and currently serves as Nuveen Asset Management's Chief Economist and Chief Investment Strategist. Mr. Hembre previously served in various positions with FAF Advisors since 1997 where he headed the team that managed the firm's asset allocation, international equity, quantitative equity, and index products and most recently also served as Chief Economist and Chief Investment Strategist.

Mr. Friar, Senior Vice President (since 2014) and Portfolio Manager (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, entered the financial services industry in 1998. He joined Nuveen Asset Management in January 2011 following the firm's acquisition of a portion of the asset management business of FAF Advisors. Mr. Friar previously served in various positions with FAF Advisors since 1999 where he served as a member of FAF's Performance Measurement group.

Item 8(a)(2). OTHER ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

In addition to the Fund, as of December 31, 2015, the portfolio managers are also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts:

(i) Name of Portfolio Manager	(ii) Number of Other Accounts Managed					(iii) Number of Other Accounts and Assets for Which Advisory Fee is			
	and Assets by Account Type					Performance-Based			Other
	Other Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other	Registered Investment Companies	Other Pooled Investment Vehicles	Other
Keith Hembre	10	\$ 2.61 billion	0	\$ 0	5	\$ 47.3 million	N/A	N/A	N/A
David Friar	9	\$ 3.46 billion	0	\$ 0	8	\$ 471 million	N/A	N/A	N/A
					1*	\$ 285 million			

- * Other Accounts-overlay strategies The portfolio manager is responsible for the management of overlay strategies employed by this account that use derivative instruments either to obtain, offset or substitute for certain portfolio exposures beyond those provided by the account's underlying portfolios.

POTENTIAL MATERIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to more than one account. More specifically, portfolio managers who manage multiple accounts are presented a number of potential conflicts, including, among others, those discussed below.

The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. Nuveen Asset Management seeks to manage such competing interests for the time and attention of portfolio managers by having portfolio managers focus on a particular investment discipline. Most accounts managed by a portfolio manager in a particular investment strategy are managed using the same investment models.

If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity which may be suitable for more than one account, an account may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible accounts. To deal with these situations, Nuveen Asset Management has adopted procedures for allocating limited opportunities across multiple accounts.

With respect to many of its clients' accounts, Nuveen Asset Management determines which broker to use to execute transaction orders, consistent with its duty to seek best execution of the transaction. However, with respect to certain other accounts, Nuveen Asset Management may be limited by the client with respect to the selection of brokers or may be instructed to direct trades through a particular broker. In these cases, Nuveen Asset Management may place separate, non-simultaneous, transactions for a Fund and other accounts which may temporarily affect the market price of the security or the execution of the transaction, or both, to the detriment of the Fund or the other accounts.

Some clients are subject to different regulations. As a consequence of this difference in regulatory requirements, some clients may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions or to engage in these transactions to the same extent as the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. Finally, the appearance of a conflict of interest may arise where Nuveen Asset Management has an incentive, such as a performance-based management fee, which relates to the management of some accounts, with respect to which a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities.

Nuveen Asset Management has adopted certain compliance procedures which are designed to address these types of conflicts common among investment managers. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

Item 8(a)(3). FUND MANAGER COMPENSATION

Portfolio manager compensation consists primarily of base pay, an annual cash bonus and long term incentive payments.

Base pay. Base pay is determined based upon an analysis of the portfolio manager's general performance, experience, and market levels of base pay for such position.

Annual cash bonus. The Fund's portfolio managers are eligible for an annual cash bonus based on investment performance, qualitative evaluation and financial performance of Nuveen Asset Management.

A portion of each portfolio manager's annual cash bonus is based on the Fund's pre-tax investment performance, generally measured over the past one- and three or five-year periods unless the portfolio manager's tenure is shorter. Investment performance for the Fund generally is determined by evaluating the Fund's performance relative to its benchmark(s) and/or Lipper industry peer group.

A portion of the cash bonus is based on a qualitative evaluation made by each portfolio manager's supervisor taking into consideration a number of factors, including the portfolio manager's team collaboration, expense management, support of personnel responsible for asset growth, and his or her compliance with Nuveen Asset Management's policies and procedures.

The final factor influencing a portfolio manager's cash bonus is the financial performance of Nuveen Asset Management based on its operating earnings.

Long-term incentive compensation. Certain key employees of Nuveen Investments and its affiliates, including certain portfolio managers participate in a Long-Term Performance Plan designed to provide compensation opportunities that links a portion of each participant's compensation to Nuveen Investments' financial and operational performance. In addition, certain key employees of Nuveen Asset Management, including certain portfolio managers, have received profits interests in Nuveen Asset Management which entitle their holders to participate in the firm's growth over time.

There are generally no differences between the methods used to determine compensation with respect to the Fund and the Other Accounts shown in the table above.

Item 8(a)(4). OWNERSHIP OF JCE SECURITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

Name of Portfolio		\$1 -	\$10,001-	\$50,001-	\$100,001-	\$500,001-	
Manager	None	\$10,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	Over \$1,000,000
Keith Hembre	X						
David Friar	X						

INTECH

Item 8(a)(1). PORTFOLIO MANAGER BIOGRAPHIES

A team of investment professionals consisting of Dr. Adrian Banner, Dr. Vassilios Papathanakos, Dr. Phillip Whitman, and Joseph Runnels works together to implement the mathematical portfolio management process.

Adrian Banner, Ph.D., is chief executive officer and chief investment officer of INTECH. Dr. Banner was named chief executive officer in November 2012 and concurrently is the firm's chief investment officer, a position he has held since January 2012. Previously, Dr. Banner was co-chief investment officer beginning January 2009, senior investment officer from September 2007 to January 2009, and joined INTECH in August 2002 as director of research. Since that time, Dr. Banner has been an integral part of the firm's Princeton-based research team. Dr. Banner has extensive knowledge of INTECH's trading systems, optimization programs and research initiatives, both on an operational and theoretical basis. Dr. Banner supervises the implementation of the portfolio optimization, management, and trading processes. He conducts mathematical research on the investment process and reviews and recommends improvements. Dr. Banner earned his Ph.D. in mathematics from Princeton University and his M.Sc. and B.Sc., also in mathematics, from the University of New South Wales, Australia.

Vassilios Papathanakos, Ph.D., is executive vice president and deputy chief investment officer of INTECH. He was named executive vice president in January 2014 and deputy chief investment officer in November 2012. Prior to that, he was the firm's director of research since July 2007, and joined INTECH in October 2006 as associate director of research. Dr. Papathanakos is jointly responsible, with Dr. Banner, for the day-to-day implementation of INTECH's investment process and trading operations. Dr. Papathanakos received his Ph.D. in Physics from Princeton University in November 2006 and earned a B.S. in Physics from the University of Ioannina, Greece, in July 2001. Dr. Papathanakos has also accumulated a long teaching experience, instructing courses in all undergraduate and graduate levels, assisting in the development of new courses and coaching new teaching assistants.

Phillip Whitman, Ph.D., became portfolio manager in January 2015. Before that, he was Director of Research since November 2012 and previously Associate Director of Research since joining INTECH in November 2010. Prior to that, Dr. Whitman was enrolled in the Ph.D. program (mathematics) at Princeton University from 2005 through November 2010, where he also served as a Course Instructor and Assistant Instructor for Multivariable Calculus in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Joseph W. Runnels, CFA, has been vice president of portfolio management at INTECH since March 2003 and joined the firm in 1998. Mr. Runnels holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Murray State University.

No one person of the investment team is primarily responsible for implementing the investment strategy of the portion of the Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund allocated to INTECH.

Item 8(a)(2). OTHER ACCOUNTS MANAGED BY PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Banner is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated:

Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Assets
Registered Investment Company*	9	\$ 2,802,671,358
Other Pooled Investment**	40	\$ 8,532,368,943
Other Accounts***	153	\$ 36,276,830,428

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Papathanakos is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated:

Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Assets
Registered Investment Company*	9	\$ 2,802,671,358
Other Pooled Investment**	40	\$ 8,532,368,943
Other Accounts***	153	\$ 36,276,830,428

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Mr. Runnels is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated:

Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Assets
Registered Investment Company*	9	\$ 2,802,671,358
Other Pooled Investment**	40	\$ 8,532,368,943
Other Accounts***	153	\$ 36,276,830,428

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Whitman is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2015, unless otherwise indicated:

Type of Account Managed	Number of Accounts	Assets
Registered Investment Company*	9	\$ 2,802,671,358
Other Pooled Investment**	40	\$ 8,532,368,943
Other Accounts***	153	\$ 36,276,830,428

* 1 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$621,055,998 of the total assets in the category, has performance-based advisory fees.

** 5 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$2,711,945,115 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.

Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSR

44 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$14,480,735,842 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.

Material Conflicts of Interest. Actual or apparent conflicts of interest may arise when a portfolio manager has day-to-day management responsibilities with respect to more than one account. More specifically, a portfolio manager who manages multiple accounts is presented with the following potential conflicts:

The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. INTECH believes its mathematical investment process and the procedures it has in place are reasonably designed to mitigate these potential conflicts and risks. Specifically, INTECH's mathematical investment process significantly removes investment discretion.

If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one account, an account may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible accounts. For INTECH, all allocations are based on computer-generated target weightings and trades occur simultaneously for all accounts on a rotating basis. Before submission for execution, trades are reviewed by the trader for errors or discrepancies. Trades are submitted to designated brokers in a single electronic file at one time during the day, pre-allocated to individual clients. In the event that an aggregated order is not completely filled, executed shares are allocated to participating client accounts in proportion to the order.

INTECH has an established procedure for the selection, approval, management and annual review of broker relationships. INTECH gives primary consideration to obtaining the most favorable price and efficient execution. INTECH may, however, pay a higher commission than would otherwise be necessary for a particular transaction when, in INTECH's opinion, to do so would further the goal of obtaining the best available execution. INTECH does not participate in soft dollar or directed brokerage commission arrangements and will not accept directed brokerage instructions. INTECH has a policy of paying commissions for execution services only and does not purchase research or other services from or through brokers using commissions.

The Fund is subject to different regulation than the other pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. As a consequence of this difference in regulatory requirements, the Fund may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions or to engage in these transactions to the same extent as the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. INTECH's mathematical investment process may result in situations in which some of its clients may sell securities when other clients purchase the same securities at or about the same time. In an attempt to reduce the likelihood of the orders matching up in the market and in an effort to maintain the confidentiality of INTECH's trading activities for purposes of improved execution, INTECH isolates its sale orders from its purchase orders with different brokers handling each order.

INTECH has adopted certain compliance procedures that are designed to address these types of conflicts common among investment managers. However, there is no guarantee that such procedures will detect each and every situation in which a conflict arises.

Item 8(a)(3). FUND MANAGER COMPENSATION

Salary and Cash Bonus. With respect to INTECH, as of December 31, 2015, the compensation structure of the investment personnel is determined by INTECH and is summarized below.

For managing the Fund and all other accounts, the investment personnel receive base pay in the form of a fixed annual salary paid and a cash bonus as determined by INTECH, which is based on overall corporate performance and each individual's contributions.

Long-Term Incentive Compensation. Investment personnel that are part owners of INTECH, also receive compensation by virtue of their ownership interest in INTECH. They may elect to defer payment of a designated percentage of their fixed compensation and/or up to all of their variable compensation in accordance with Janus Capital Group Inc.'s Executive Income Deferral Program.

Item 8(a)(4). OWNERSHIP OF JCE SECURITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2015

Name of Portfolio Manager	None	\$1 - \$10,000	\$10,001- \$50,000	\$50,001- \$100,000	\$100,001- \$500,000	\$500,001- \$1,000,000	Over \$1,000,000
Dr. Banner	X						
Dr. Papathanakos	X						
Mr. Runnels	X						
Dr. Whitman	X						

ITEM 9. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 10. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's Board implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to this Item.

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

- (a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the 1940 Act) (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of this report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of the controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15 (b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act) (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15 (b)).

- (b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the second fiscal quarter of the period covered by this report that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

File the exhibits listed below as part of this Form.

(a)(1) Any code of ethics, or amendment thereto, that is the subject of the disclosure required by Item 2, to the extent that the registrant intends to satisfy the Item 2 requirements through filing of an exhibit: Not applicable because the code is posted on registrant's website at www.nuveen.com/CEF/Shareholder/FundGovernance.aspx and there were no amendments during the period covered by this report. (To view the code, click on Code of Conduct.)

(a)(2) A separate certification for each principal executive officer and principal financial officer of the registrant as required by Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(a)) in the exact form set forth below: Ex-99.CERT Attached hereto.

(a)(3) Any written solicitation to purchase securities under Rule 23c-1 under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.23c-1) sent or given during the period covered by the report by or on behalf of the registrant to 10 or more persons. Not applicable.

(b) If the report is filed under Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, provide the certifications required by Rule 30a-2(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-2(b)); Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13a-14(b) or 240.15d-14(b)), and Section 1350 of Chapter 63 of Title 18 of the United States Code (18 U.S.C. 1350) as an exhibit. A certification furnished pursuant to this paragraph will not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. 78r), or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certification will not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except to the extent that the registrant specifically incorporates it by reference. Ex-99.906 CERT attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Kevin J. McCarthy
Kevin J. McCarthy
Vice President and Secretary

Date: March 9, 2016

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Gifford R. Zimmerman
Gifford R. Zimmerman
Chief Administrative Officer
(principal executive officer)

Date: March 9, 2016

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Stephen D. Foy
Stephen D. Foy
Vice President and Controller
(principal financial officer)

Date: March 9, 2016