

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form N-CSRS  
September 08, 2008

**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: June 30, 2008

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 SHAREHOLDERS**

Semi-Annual  
Report  
June 30, 2008

Nuveen Investments  
**Closed-End Funds**

NUVEEN  
CORE EQUITY  
ALPHA FUND  
JCE

*Mathematically-driven investment strategy that seeks to  
generate risk-adjusted excess returns*

---

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](http://www.investordelivery.com)

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

**OR**

[www.nuveen.com/accountaccess](http://www.nuveen.com/accountaccess)

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

---

Chairman's  
LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

Robert P. Bremner

Chairman of the Board

Dear Fellow Shareholders:

I'd like to use my initial letter to you to accomplish several things. First, I want to report that after fourteen years of service on your Fund's Board, including the last twelve as chairman, Tim Schwertfeger retired from the Board in June. The Board has elected me to replace him as the chairman, the first time this role has been filled by someone who is not an employee of Nuveen Investments. Electing an independent chairman marks a significant milestone in the management of your Fund, and it aligns us with what is now considered a best practice in the fund industry. Further, it demonstrates the independence with which your Board has always acted on your behalf.

Following Tim will not be easy. During my eleven previous years on the Nuveen Fund Board, I found that Tim always set a very high standard by combining insightful industry and market knowledge and sound, clear judgment. While the Board will miss his wise counsel, I am certain we will retain the primary commitment Tim shared with all of us—an unceasing dedication to creating and retaining value for Nuveen Fund shareholders. This focus on value over time is a touchstone that I and all the other Board members will continue to use when making decisions on your behalf.

Second, I also want to report that we are very fortunate to be welcoming two new Board members to our team. John Amboian, the current chairman and CEO of Nuveen Investments, has agreed to replace Tim as Nuveen's representative on the Board. John's presence will allow the independent Board members to benefit not only from his leadership role at Nuveen but also his broad understanding of the fund industry and Nuveen's role within it. We also are adding Terry Toth as an independent director. A former CEO of the Northern Trust Company's asset management group, Terry will bring extensive experience in the fund industry to our deliberations.

Finally, I urge you to take the time to review the Portfolio Manager's Comments, the Distribution and Share Price Information, and the Performance Overview sections of this report. All of us are grateful that you have chosen Nuveen Investments as a partner as you pursue your financial goals, and, on behalf of myself and the other members of your Fund's Board, let me say we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Bremner  
Chairman of the Board  
August 22, 2008

---

Portfolio Managers COMMENTS

**Nuveen Investments Closed-End Funds**

JCE

*Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE) is managed by Enhanced Investment Technologies, LLC (INTECH), an independently managed subsidiary of Janus Capital Group Inc. INTECH's Chief Investment Officer Dr. Robert Fernholz, Ph.D., leads the portfolio management team. Here Dr. Fernholz and team members talk about the management strategy and the performance of the Fund for the six-month period ended June 30, 2008.*

**OVER THIS PERIOD, WHAT KEY STRATEGIES WERE USED TO MANAGE THE FUND?**

INTECH's mathematical investment process is applied to the equity portion of the Fund, which analyzes the relative volatility of individual stocks that can then be captured in our optimization and rebalancing process. While we expect that there will be individual periods or years in which we exceed or underperform our targets, we seek over the long term to be able to provide returns in excess of the S&P 500 Index with equal or less risk.

Since the Fund's inception in March 2007, the basis of our proprietary mathematical investment process has been a mathematical algorithm that seeks to combine stocks with high relative volatility and low correlation in a potentially more efficient combination than is found in the benchmark index. These target weights are then maintained over time and the portfolio is re-optimized and re-balanced on a regular basis. Since the investment process searches for stocks that are volatile relative to the index, this may lead us toward the smaller members of the large cap stock universe. Consequently, the weighted average market capitalization of the Fund's portfolio often may be smaller than the weighted average market capitalization of the S&P 500 Index. INTECH does not make decisions on individual stocks based on fundamental analysis.

The Fund also employs an option strategy to enhance its risk adjusted returns over time. Over this period, the Fund wrote (sold) call options primarily on custom baskets of securities. The sale of equity call options was used to generate current gains that could be used to partially offset equity portfolio losses in certain situations. The option strategy was administered by Nuveen Asset Management, the Fund's investment adviser.

Discussions of specific investments are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended as recommendations of individual investments. The views expressed in this commentary represent those of the portfolio managers as of the date of this report and are subject to change at any time, based on market conditions and other factors. The Fund disclaims any obligation to advise shareholders of such changes.

**HOW DID THE FUND PERFORM OVER THIS TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD?**

Past performance does not guarantee 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. For additional information, see the individual Performance Overview for the Fund in this report.

1 The S&P 500 Index is an unmanaged Index generally considered representative of the U.S. Stock Market.

The performance of JCE, as well as the Fund's benchmark index, is presented in the accompanying table.

Cumulative Total Returns on Net Asset Value  
For the six-months ended 6/30/08

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| JCE                        | -8.75%  |
| S&P 500 Index <sup>1</sup> | -11.91% |

Overall, larger cap stocks generally did not perform well during the six-month period. Although the Fund had a negative total return, it did outperform the S&P 500 Index.

As noted earlier, the Fund's investment strategy may lead to the purchase of smaller members of the large cap stock universe. In the short term, this can impact the performance of the Fund relative to a passive benchmark. For example, during periods when capital flows from larger to smaller stocks, the Fund's smaller stock tendency may prove to be a positive for performance.

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 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 price correlation with other equities. Since the sector structure of the market is not taken into account in the our methodology, any sector underweights or overweights are likely to be coincidental.

Distribution and Share Price

INFORMATION

We are providing you with information regarding your Fund's distributions. This information is as of June 30, 2008, and likely will vary over time based on the Fund's investment activities and portfolio investment value changes.

The Fund has a managed distribution program. The goal of a managed distribution program is to provide shareholders with 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 are likely to include a portion of expected long-term gains (both realized and unrealized), along with net investment income.

Important points to understand about a managed distribution program are:

The Fund seeks to establish a relatively stable 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 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 distribution is expected to be paid from some or all of the following sources:

net investment income (regular interest and dividends),

realized capital gains, 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 during the year based on the Fund's performance and forecast for its current fiscal year (which is the calendar year for the Fund), estimates on the nature of your distributions provided at the time the distributions are paid may differ from both the tax information reported to you in your Fund's IRS Form 1099 statement provided at year end, as well as the ultimate economic sources of distributions over the life of your investment.

The following table provides estimated information regarding the Fund's distributions and total return performance for the six months ended June 30, 2008. The distribution information is presented on a tax basis rather than on a generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) basis. This information is intended to help you better understand whether the Fund's returns for the specified time period was sufficient to meet the Fund's distributions.

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| As of 6/30/08                   | JCE     |
| Inception date                  | 3/27/07 |
| Six months ended June 30, 2008: |         |
| Per share distribution:         |         |
| From net investment income      | \$0.07  |
| From realized capital gains     |         |
| From return of capital          | 0.75    |
| Total per share distribution    | \$0.82  |
| Distribution rate on NAV        | 5.04%   |
| Annualized total returns:       |         |
| Six-Month (Cumulative) on NAV   | -8.75%  |
| 1-Year on NAV                   | -5.30%  |
| Since Inception on NAV          | -3.44%  |

#### **COMMON SHARE REPURCHASES AND SHARE PRICE INFORMATION**

The Board of Directors/Trustees for each of Nuveen's 120 closed-end funds approved a program, effective August 7, 2008, under which each fund may repurchase up to 10% of its common shares.

As of June 30, 2008, the Fund's share price was trading at a -11.55% discount to its NAV, compared with an average discount of -10.93% for the entire six-month period.



**Fund Snapshot**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Share Price                            | \$14.40   |
| Net Asset Value                        | \$16.28   |
| Premium/(Discount) to NAV              | -11.55%   |
| Current Distribution Rate <sup>1</sup> | 11.39%    |
| Net Assets (\$000)                     | \$267,720 |

**Average Annual Total Return**

(Inception 3/27/07)

|                         | <b>On Share<br/>Price</b> | <b>On NAV</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| 6-Month<br>(Cumulative) | -6.99%                    | -8.75%        |
| 1-Year                  | -12.91%                   | -5.30%        |
| Since Inception         | -14.74%                   | -3.44%        |

**Industries**

(as a % of total investments)<sup>2</sup>

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels            | 10.8% |
| Aerospace & Defense                    | 5.4%  |
| Pharmaceuticals                        | 5.3%  |
| Beverages                              | 4.6%  |
| Electric Utilities                     | 4.6%  |
| Diversified Telecommunication Services | 4.4%  |
| Industrial Conglomerates               | 4.1%  |
| Computers & Peripherals                | 4.1%  |

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

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| Household Products                     | 3.2%  |
| Insurance                              | 3.0%  |
| Commercial Banks                       | 3.0%  |
| Health Care Equipment & Supplies       | 2.8%  |
| Health Care Providers & Services       | 2.8%  |
| Software                               | 2.6%  |
| Energy Equipment & Services            | 2.5%  |
| Machinery                              | 2.4%  |
| Food & Staples Retailing               | 2.2%  |
| Communications Equipment               | 1.9%  |
| Chemicals                              | 1.7%  |
| Food Products                          | 1.7%  |
| Specialty Retail                       | 1.6%  |
| Media                                  | 1.6%  |
| U.S. Government and Agency Obligations | 2.3%  |
| Short-Term Investments                 | 1.9%  |
| Other                                  | 19.5% |

JCE  
**Performance**  
OVERVIEW

Nuveen  
Core Equity  
Alpha Fund  
as of June 30, 2008

**Portfolio Allocation (as a % of total investments)<sup>2</sup>**

**2007-2008 Distributions Per Share**

**Share Price Performance Weekly Closing Price**

## Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSRS

Current Distribution Rate is based on the Fund's current annualized quarterly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price. The Fund's quarterly distributions to its shareholders may be comprised of ordinary income, net realized capital gains and, if at the end of the calendar year the Fund's cumulative net ordinary income and net realized gains are less than the amount of the Fund's distributions, a return of capital for tax purposes.

2 Excluding derivative transactions.

8

---

**Shareholder Meeting Report**

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders was held in the offices of Nuveen Investments on June 30, 2008.

|  | <b>JCE</b>       |
|--|------------------|
|  | Common<br>Shares |
| <b>Approval of the Board Members was reached as follows:</b>   |                  |
| John P. Amboian  |                  |
| For  | 12,874,449       |
| Withhold   | 215,427          |
| Total  | 13,089,876       |
| William C. Hunter  |                  |
| For  | 12,879,298       |
| Withhold   | 210,578          |
| Total  | 13,089,876       |
| David J. Kundert   |                  |
| For  | 12,877,195       |
| Withhold   | 212,681          |
| Total  | 13,089,876       |
| Terence J. Toth  |                  |
| For  | 12,877,318       |
| Withhold   | 212,558          |
| Total  | 13,089,876       |
| <b>To ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm:</b> |                  |
| For  | 12,985,854       |
| Against  | 67,182           |
| Abstain  | 36,840           |
| Total  | 13,089,876       |

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

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Portfolio of INVESTMENTS

June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

| Shares | Description (1)                             | Value        |
|--------|---|--------------|
|        | <b>Common Stocks 95.1%</b>                  |              |
|        | <b>Aerospace &amp; Defense 5.3%</b>         |              |
| 19,800 | Boeing Company                              | \$ 1,301,256 |
| 13,800 | General Dynamics Corporation                | 1,161,960    |
| 29,200 | Goodrich Corporation                        | 1,385,832    |
| 43,800 | Honeywell International Inc.                | 2,202,264    |
| 5,600  | L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.           | 508,872      |
| 32,200 | Lockheed Martin Corporation                 | 3,176,852    |
| 5,800  | Northrop Grumman Corporation                | 388,020      |
| 22,200 | Precision Castparts Corporation             | 2,139,414    |
| 13,700 | Raytheon Company                            | 771,036      |
| 20,500 | United Technologies Corporation             | 1,264,850    |
|        | Total Aerospace & Defense                   | 14,300,356   |
|        | <b>Air Freight &amp; Logistics 0.3%</b>     |              |
| 3,200  | C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.               | 175,488      |
| 9,600  | Expeditors International of Washington Inc. | 412,800      |
| 3,600  | United Parcel Service, Inc., Class B        | 221,292      |
|        | Total Air Freight & Logistics               | 809,580      |
|        | <b>Airlines 0.1%</b>                        |              |
| 9,600  | Southwest Airlines Co.                      | 125,184      |
|        | <b>Auto Components 0.7%</b>                 |              |
| 6,900  | Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, (2)         | 123,027      |
| 60,900 | Johnson Controls, Inc.                      | 1,746,612    |
|        | Total Auto Components                       | 1,869,639    |
|        | <b>Automobiles 0.5%</b>                     |              |
| 11,300 | Ford Motor Company, (2)                     | 54,353       |
| 96,000 | General Motors Corporation                  | 1,104,000    |
| 1,700  | Harley-Davidson, Inc.                       | 61,642       |
|        | Total Automobiles                           | 1,219,995    |
|        | <b>Beverages 4.6%</b>                       |              |
| 13,900 | Brown-Forman Corporation                    | 1,050,423    |
| 89,400 | Coca-Cola Company                           | 4,647,012    |
| 72,900 | Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.                  | 1,261,170    |
| 31,700 | Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A, (2)    | 629,562      |

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

|        |                                       |            |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 6,100  | Molson Coors Brewing Company, Class B | 331,413    |
| 33,300 | Pepsi Bottling Group, Inc.            | 929,736    |
| 55,100 | PepsiCo, Inc.                         | 3,503,809  |
|        | Total Beverages                       | 12,353,125 |
|        | <b>Biotechnology 1.0%</b>             |            |
| 8,100  | Amgen Inc., (2)                       | 381,996    |
| 11,200 | Biogen Idec Inc., (2)                 | 625,968    |
| 11,100 | Celgene Corporation, (2)              | 708,957    |
| 9,800  | Genzyme Corporation, (2)              | 705,796    |
| 2,800  | Gilead Sciences, Inc., (2)            | 148,260    |
|        | Total Biotechnology                   | 2,570,977  |
|        | <b>Capital Markets 1.3%</b>           |            |
| 4,900  | American Capital Strategies Limited   | 116,473    |
| 3,700  | Bank of New York Company, Inc.        | 139,971    |
| 16,400 | Charles Schwab Corporation            | 336,856    |
| 11,200 | Federated Investors Inc.              | 385,504    |
| 3,200  | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.             | 559,680    |
| 16,805 | JPMorgan Chase & Co.                  | 576,580    |
| 17,500 | Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.         | 346,675    |

| Shares   | Description (1)                      | Value      |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Capital Markets (continued)</b>             |                                      |            |
| 5,100  | State Street Corporation             | \$ 326,349 |
| 11,400   | T. Rowe Price Group Inc.             | 643,758    |
|  | Total Capital Markets                | 3,431,846  |
| <b>Chemicals 1.7%</b>                          |                                      |            |
| 11,500   | Air Products & Chemicals Inc.        | 1,136,890  |
| 1,700  | Dow Chemical Company                 | 59,347     |
| 15,200   | Ecolab Inc.                          | 653,448    |
| 14,800   | PPG Industries, Inc.                 | 849,076    |
| 11,200   | Praxair, Inc.                        | 1,055,488  |
| 15,300   | Sigma-Aldrich Corporation            | 824,058    |
|  | Total Chemicals                      | 4,578,307  |
| <b>Commercial Banks 3.0%</b>                   |                                      |            |
| 140,400  | Bank of America Corporation          | 3,351,348  |
| 35,100   | BB&T Corporation                     | 799,227    |
| 8,100  | M&T Bank Corporation                 | 571,374    |
| 19,800   | Marshall and Ilsley Corporation      | 303,534    |
| 16,100   | Northern Trust Corporation           | 1,103,977  |
| 5,000  | PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.   | 285,500    |
| 5,500  | Regions Financial Corporation        | 60,005     |
| 700  | SunTrust Banks, Inc.                 | 25,354     |
| 15,800   | U.S. Bancorp                         | 440,662    |
| 42,700   | Wells Fargo & Company                | 1,014,125  |
|  | Total Commercial Banks               | 7,955,106  |
| <b>Commercial Services &amp; Supplies 0.1%</b> |                                      |            |
| 2,100  | Cintas Corporation                   | 55,671     |
| 1,600  | Equifax Inc.                         | 53,792     |
| 2,800  | Robert Half International Inc.       | 67,116     |
|  | Total Commercial Services & Supplies | 176,579    |
| <b>Communications Equipment 1.9%</b>           |                                      |            |
| 10,200   | Ciena Corporation, (2)               | 236,334    |
| 134,800  | Cisco Systems, Inc., (2)             | 3,135,448  |
| 21,100   | Corning Incorporated                 | 486,355    |
| 49,600   | Juniper Networks Inc., (2)           | 1,100,128  |
| 16,900   | Motorola, Inc.                       | 124,046    |
| 1,200  | QUALCOMM Inc.                        | 53,244     |
|  | Total Communications Equipment       | 5,135,555  |
| <b>Computers &amp; Peripherals 4.0%</b>        |                                      |            |

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

|        |  |            |
|--------|--|------------|
| 15,000 | Apple, Inc., (2)                                     | 2,511,600  |
| 12,000 | Dell Inc., (2)                                       | 262,560    |
| 79,400 | EMC Corporation, (2)                                 | 1,166,386  |
| 89,800 | Hewlett-Packard Company                              | 3,970,058  |
| 23,800 | International Business Machines Corporation<br>(IBM) | 2,821,014  |
| 2,100  | SanDisk Corporation, (2)                             | 39,270     |
|        | Total Computers & Peripherals                        | 10,770,888 |
|        | <b>Construction &amp; Engineering 1.0%</b>           |            |
| 6,500  | Fluor Corporation                                    | 1,209,520  |
| 16,500 | Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., (2)                   | 1,331,550  |
|        | Total Construction & Engineering                     | 2,541,070  |
|        | <b>Consumer Finance 0.1%</b>                         |            |
| 2,700  | American Express Company                             | 101,709    |
| 1,400  | Capital One Financial Corporation                    | 53,214     |
| 4,400  | SLM Corporation, (2)                                 | 85,140     |
| 2,200  | Western Union Company                                | 54,384     |
|        | Total Consumer Finance                               | 294,447    |



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

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)  
Portfolio of INVESTMENTS June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

| Shares  | Description (1)                                    | Value        |
|---------|--|--------------|
|         | <b>Diversified Consumer Services 0.6%</b>          |              |
| 22,900  | Apollo Group, Inc., (2)                            | \$ 1,013,554 |
| 22,100  | H & R Block Inc.                                   | 472,940      |
|         | Total Diversified Consumer Services                | 1,486,494    |
|         | <b>Diversified Financial Services 1.2%</b>         |              |
| 11,700  | CIT Group Inc.                                     | 79,677       |
| 33,100  | Citigroup Inc.                                     | 554,756      |
| 1,300   | CME Group, Inc.                                    | 498,147      |
| 1,000   | Intercontinental Exchange Inc., (2)                | 114,000      |
| 36,500  | Leucadia National Corporation                      | 1,713,310    |
| 2,400   | New York Stock Exchange Euronext                   | 121,584      |
|         | Total Diversified Financial Services               | 3,081,474    |
|         | <b>Diversified Telecommunication Services 4.4%</b> |              |
| 281,100 | AT&T Inc.  | 9,470,259    |
| 900     | Embarq Corporation                                 | 42,543       |
| 61,100  | Verizon Communications Inc.                        | 2,162,940    |
|         | Total Diversified Telecommunication Services       | 11,675,742   |
|         | <b>Electric Utilities 4.5%</b>                     |              |
| 3,600   | Allegheny Energy, Inc.                             | 180,396      |
| 17,000  | Ameren Corporation                                 | 717,910      |
| 21,600  | American Electric Power Company, Inc.              | 868,968      |
| 4,900   | Edison International                               | 251,762      |
| 19,300  | Entergy Corporation                                | 2,325,264    |
| 2,400   | Exelon Corporation                                 | 215,904      |
| 14,700  | FirstEnergy Corp.                                  | 1,210,251    |
| 43,700  | FPL Group, Inc.                                    | 2,865,846    |
| 4,100   | PG&E Corporation                                   | 162,729      |
| 3,600   | Pinnacle West Capital Corporation                  | 110,772      |
| 53,700  | PPL Corporation                                    | 2,806,899    |
| 11,400  | Southern Company                                   | 398,088      |
|         | Total Electric Utilities                           | 12,114,789   |

|  |  |           |
|--|--|-----------|
| <b>Electrical Equipment 0.2%</b>                   |  |           |
| 5,100  | Cooper Industries, Ltd., Class A, (2)    | 201,450   |
| 4,700  | Emerson Electric Co.                     | 232,415   |
| 3,900  | Rockwell Automation, Inc.                | 170,547   |
|  | Total Electrical Equipment               | 604,412   |
| <b>Electronic Equipment &amp; Instruments 0.9%</b> |  |           |
| 10,700   | MEMC Electronic Materials, (2)           | 658,478   |
| 3,300  | Molex Inc.                               | 80,553    |
| 29,200   | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc., (2)      | 1,627,316 |
| 1,800  | Waters Corporation, (2)                  | 116,100   |
|  | Total Electronic Equipment & Instruments | 2,482,447 |
| <b>Energy Equipment &amp; Services 2.5%</b>        |  |           |
| 3,100  | Baker Hughes Incorporated                | 270,754   |
| 2,800  | Cooper Cameron Corporation, (2)          | 154,980   |
| 19,900   | National-Oilwell Varco Inc., (2)         | 1,765,528 |
| 1,200  | Noble Corporation                        | 77,952    |
| 18,700   | Schlumberger Limited                     | 2,008,941 |
| 11,500   | Smith International, Inc.                | 956,110   |
| 4,446  | Transocean Inc., (2)                     | 677,526   |
| 14,300   | Weatherford International Ltd, (2)       | 709,137   |
|  | Total Energy Equipment & Services        | 6,620,928 |
| <b>Food &amp; Staples Retailing 2.2%</b>           |  |           |
| 43,200   | CVS Caremark Corporation                 | 1,709,424 |
| 69,000   | Kroger Co.                               | 1,992,030 |
| 25,600   | Safeway Inc.                             | 730,880   |
| 5,000  | SUPERVALU INC                            | 154,450   |
| 7,500  | Sysco Corporation                        | 206,325   |

| Shares | Description (1)                                  | Value      |
|--------|--|------------|
|        | <b>Food &amp; Staples Retailing</b> (continued)  |            |
| 5,700  | Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.                            | \$ 320,340 |
| 35,500 | Whole Foods Market, Inc.                         | 840,995    |
|        | Total Food & Staples Retailing                   | 5,954,444  |
|        | <b>Food Products 1.7%</b>                        |            |
| 6,300  | Archer-Daniels-Midland Company                   | 212,625    |
| 1,600  | ConAgra Foods, Inc.                              | 30,848     |
| 2,900  | General Mills, Inc.                              | 176,233    |
| 13,300 | H.J. Heinz Company                               | 636,405    |
| 21,000 | Kellogg Company                                  | 1,008,420  |
| 13,900 | Kraft Foods Inc.                                 | 395,455    |
| 10,100 | Monsanto Company                                 | 1,277,044  |
| 11,400 | Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A                       | 170,316    |
| 8,300  | Wm. Wrigley Jr. Company                          | 645,574    |
|        | Total Food Products                              | 4,552,920  |
|        | <b>Gas Utilities 0.2%</b>                        |            |
| 6,300  | Questar Corporation                              | 447,552    |
|        | <b>Health Care Equipment &amp; Supplies 2.8%</b> |            |
| 25,400 | Applera Corporation-Applied Biosystems Group     | 850,392    |
| 36,900 | Baxter International Inc.                        | 2,359,386  |
| 2,100  | Becton, Dickinson and Company                    | 170,730    |
| 2,800  | C. R. Bard, Inc.                                 | 246,260    |
| 4,100  | Hospira Inc., (2)                                | 164,451    |
| 1,300  | Intuitive Surgical, Inc., (2)                    | 350,220    |
| 10,900 | Patterson Companies Inc., (2)                    | 320,351    |
| 39,300 | Stryker Corporation                              | 2,471,184  |
| 6,600  | Varian Medical Systems, Inc., (2)                | 342,210    |
| 3,300  | Zimmer Holdings, Inc., (2)                       | 224,565    |
|        | Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies           | 7,499,749  |
|        | <b>Health Care Providers &amp; Services 2.8%</b> |            |
| 6,300  | Aetna Inc.                                       | 255,339    |
| 44,700 | CIGNA Corporation                                | 1,581,933  |
| 2,400  | Coventry Health Care, Inc., (2)                  | 73,008     |
| 11,700 | Express Scripts, Inc., (2)                       | 733,824    |
| 7,300  | Humana Inc., (2)                                 | 290,321    |
| 63,600 | Medco Health Solutions, Inc., (2)                | 3,001,920  |
| 29,800 | Quest Diagnostics Incorporated                   | 1,444,406  |
| 15,500 | Tenet Healthcare Corporation, (2)                | 86,180     |
|        | Total Health Care Providers & Services           | 7,466,931  |

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

|        |  |             |           |
|--------|--|-------------|-----------|
|        | <b>Health Care Technology</b>            | <b>0.0%</b> |           |
| 2,600  | IMS Health Incorporated                  |             | 60,580    |
|        | <b>Hotels, Restaurants &amp; Leisure</b> | <b>1.4%</b> |           |
| 3,000  | Carnival Corporation                     |             | 98,880    |
| 13,500 | International Game Technology            |             | 337,230   |
| 49,800 | McDonald's Corporation                   |             | 2,799,756 |
| 14,300 | YUM! Brands, Inc.                        |             | 501,787   |
|        | Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure      |             | 3,737,653 |
|        | <b>Household Durables</b>                | <b>0.7%</b> |           |
| 800    | Black & Decker Corporation               |             | 46,008    |
| 24,600 | Centex Corporation                       |             | 328,902   |
| 45,800 | D.R. Horton, Inc.                        |             | 496,930   |
| 1,400  | Fortune Brands Inc.                      |             | 87,374    |
| 16,600 | KB Home                                  |             | 281,038   |
| 2,500  | Newell Rubbermaid Inc.                   |             | 41,975    |
| 53,600 | Pulte Corporation                        |             | 516,168   |
| 900    | Snap-on Incorporated                     |             | 46,809    |
| 800    | Whirlpool Corporation                    |             | 49,384    |
|        | Total Household Durables                 |             | 1,894,588 |

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)  
Portfolio of INVESTMENTS June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

| Shares  | Description (1)  | Value        |
|---------|--|--------------|
|         | <b>Household Products 3.1%</b>                               |              |
| 41,200  | Colgate-Palmolive Company                                    | \$ 2,846,920 |
| 600     | Kimberly-Clark Corporation                                   | 35,868       |
| 90,400  | Procter & Gamble Company                                     | 5,497,224    |
|         | Total Household Products                                     | 8,380,012    |
|         | <b>Independent Power Producers &amp; Energy Traders 0.6%</b> |              |
| 20,400  | Constellation Energy Group                                   | 1,674,840    |
|         | <b>Industrial Conglomerates 4.0%</b>                         |              |
| 14,900  | 3M Co.   | 1,036,891    |
| 328,600 | General Electric Company                                     | 8,770,334    |
| 21,100  | Textron Inc.   | 1,011,323    |
|         | Total Industrial Conglomerates                               | 10,818,548   |
|         | <b>Insurance 3.0%</b>  |              |
| 1,000   | Ace Limited  | 55,090       |
| 19,500  | AFLAC Incorporated   | 1,224,600    |
| 4,100   | Allstate Corporation   | 186,919      |
| 21,600  | American International Group, Inc.                           | 571,536      |
| 1,400   | Aon Corporation  | 64,316       |
| 4,500   | Assurant Inc.  | 296,820      |
| 1,100   | Chubb Corporation  | 53,911       |
| 8,700   | Cincinnati Financial Corporation                             | 220,980      |
| 68,300  | Loews Corporation  | 3,203,270    |
| 28,400  | MBIA Inc.  | 124,676      |
| 4,400   | MetLife, Inc.  | 232,188      |
| 9,300   | Principal Financial Group, Inc.                              | 390,321      |
| 16,300  | Progressive Corporation                                      | 305,136      |
| 5,700   | Prudential Financial, Inc.                                   | 340,518      |
| 1,200   | SAFECO Corporation   | 80,592       |
| 4,600   | Travelers Companies, Inc.                                    | 199,640      |
| 23,900  | Unum Group   | 488,755      |
| 1,500   | XL Capital Ltd, Class A                                      | 30,840       |
|         | Total Insurance  | 8,070,108    |
|         | <b>Internet &amp; Catalog Retail 0.9%</b>                    |              |
| 29,900  | Amazon.com, Inc., (2)  | 2,192,567    |
| 13,200  | Expedia, Inc., (2)   | 242,616      |

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

|        |  |           |
|--------|--|-----------|
|        | Total Internet & Catalog Retail                | 2,435,183 |
|        | <b>Internet Software &amp; Services 0.6%</b>   |           |
| 3,000  | Google Inc., Class A, (2)                      | 1,579,260 |
| 5,400  | Yahoo! Inc., (2)                               | 111,564   |
|        | Total Internet Software & Services             | 1,690,824 |
|        | <b>IT Services 0.0%</b>                        |           |
| 300    | Fidelity National Information Services         | 11,073    |
| 1,300  | Fiserv, Inc., (2)                              | 58,981    |
|        | Total IT Services                              | 70,054    |
|        | <b>Life Sciences Tools &amp; Services 0.0%</b> |           |
| 3,200  | Perkinelmer Inc.                               | 89,120    |
|        | <b>Machinery 2.4%</b>                          |           |
| 16,100 | Caterpillar Inc.                               | 1,188,502 |
| 20,400 | Cummins Inc.                                   | 1,336,608 |
| 4,800  | Danaher Corporation                            | 371,040   |
| 13,400 | Deere & Company                                | 966,542   |
| 1,400  | Dover Corporation                              | 67,718    |
| 300    | Eaton Corporation                              | 25,491    |
| 6,800  | Illinois Tool Works Inc.                       | 323,068   |
| 30,361 | Ingersoll Rand Company Limited, Class A        | 1,136,412 |
| 1,600  | Manitowoc Company Inc.                         | 52,048    |
| 18,900 | PACCAR Inc.                                    | 790,587   |

| Shares | Description (1)                              | Value      |
|--------|--|------------|
|        | <b>Machinery (continued)</b>                 |            |
| 1,500  | Parker Hannifin Corporation                  | \$ 106,980 |
| 2,400  | Terex Corporation, (2)                       | 123,288    |
|        | Total Machinery                              | 6,488,284  |
|        | <b>Media 1.6%</b>                            |            |
| 17,100 | Clear Channel Communications, Inc.           | 601,920    |
| 44,900 | Comcast Corporation, Class A                 | 851,753    |
| 44,800 | DIRECTV Group, Inc., (2)                     | 1,160,768  |
| 9,200  | E.W. Scripps Company, Class A                | 382,168    |
| 54,900 | News Corporation, Class A                    | 825,696    |
| 200    | Omnicom Group Inc.                           | 8,976      |
| 7,100  | Walt Disney Company                          | 221,520    |
| 200    | Washington Post Company                      | 117,380    |
|        | Total Media                                  | 4,170,181  |
|        | <b>Metals &amp; Mining 0.9%</b>              |            |
| 2,800  | Alcoa Inc.                                   | 99,736     |
| 9,900  | CONSOL Energy Inc.                           | 1,112,463  |
| 4,400  | Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc.         | 515,636    |
| 4,900  | Newmont Mining Corporation                   | 255,584    |
| 1,700  | Nucor Corporation                            | 126,939    |
| 2,100  | United States Steel Corporation              | 388,038    |
|        | Total Metals & Mining                        | 2,498,396  |
|        | <b>Multiline Retail 0.3%</b>                 |            |
| 5,000  | Costco Wholesale Corporation                 | 350,700    |
| 3,700  | Kohl's Corporation, (2)                      | 148,148    |
| 5,300  | Target Corporation                           | 246,397    |
|        | Total Multiline Retail                       | 745,245    |
|        | <b>Multi-Utilities 0.7%</b>                  |            |
| 1,500  | Dominion Resources, Inc.                     | 71,235     |
| 35,900 | Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated | 1,648,887  |
| 1,000  | Sempra Energy                                | 56,450     |
| 3,300  | Xcel Energy, Inc.                            | 66,231     |
|        | Total Multi-Utilities                        | 1,842,803  |
|        | <b>Oil, Gas &amp; Consumable Fuels 10.7%</b> |            |
| 12,200 | Anadarko Petroleum Corporation               | 913,048    |
| 3,200  | Apache Corporation                           | 444,800    |
| 2,300  | Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation                  | 155,779    |
| 3,600  | Chesapeake Energy Corporation                | 237,456    |
| 44,900 | Chevron Corporation                          | 4,450,937  |
| 26,000 | ConocoPhillips                               | 2,454,140  |
| 2,800  | Devon Energy Corporation                     | 336,448    |

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

|         |                                   |            |
|---------|-----------------------------------|------------|
| 2,900   | EOG Resources, Inc.               | 380,480    |
| 138,800 | Exxon Mobil Corporation           | 12,232,443 |
| 3,900   | Hess Corporation                  | 492,141    |
| 23,800  | Marathon Oil Corporation          | 1,234,506  |
| 2,600   | Massey Energy Company             | 243,750    |
| 12,700  | Murphy Oil Corporation            | 1,245,235  |
| 16,900  | Occidental Petroleum Corporation  | 1,518,634  |
| 2,700   | Peabody Energy Corporation        | 237,735    |
| 7,400   | Range Resources Corporation       | 484,996    |
| 10,200  | Southwestern Energy Company, (2)  | 485,622    |
| 4,000   | Tesoro Petroleum Corporation      | 79,080     |
| 17,500  | Valero Energy Corporation         | 720,650    |
| 3,400   | Williams Companies, Inc.          | 137,054    |
| 3,950   | XTO Energy, Inc.                  | 270,615    |
|         | Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels | 28,755,549 |



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

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)  
Portfolio of INVESTMENTS June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

| Shares  | Description (1)                                    | Value      |
|---------|--|------------|
|         | <b>Paper &amp; Forest Products 0.0%</b>            |            |
| 1,100   | International Paper Company                        | \$ 25,630  |
| 1,200   | Weyerhaeuser Company                               | 61,368     |
|         | Total Paper & Forest Products                      | 86,998     |
|         | <b>Personal Products 0.1%</b>                      |            |
| 5,400   | Avon Products, Inc.                                | 194,508    |
|         | <b>Pharmaceuticals 5.2%</b>                        |            |
| 39,100  | Abbott Laboratories                                | 2,071,127  |
| 9,300   | Allergan, Inc.                                     | 484,065    |
| 38,500  | Bristol-Myers Squibb Company                       | 790,405    |
| 12,100  | Eli Lilly and Company                              | 558,536    |
| 38,500  | Johnson & Johnson                                  | 2,477,090  |
| 157,800 | Merck & Co. Inc.                                   | 5,947,482  |
| 54,800  | Pfizer Inc.  | 957,356    |
| 31,400  | Schering-Plough Corporation                        | 618,266    |
| 4,400   | Watson Pharmaceuticals Inc., (2)                   | 119,548    |
|         | Total Pharmaceuticals                              | 14,023,875 |
|         | <b>Real Estate 1.1%</b>                            |            |
| 5,900   | Apartment Investment & Management Company, Class A | 200,954    |
| 700     | AvalonBay Communities, Inc.                        | 62,412     |
| 2,200   | Boston Properties, Inc.                            | 198,484    |
| 8,000   | Equity Residential                                 | 306,160    |
| 20,600  | Health Care Property Investors Inc.                | 655,286    |
| 3,800   | Kimco Realty Corporation                           | 131,176    |
| 9,400   | Plum Creek Timber Company                          | 401,474    |
| 5,400   | ProLogis   | 293,490    |
| 5,100   | Public Storage, Inc.                               | 412,029    |
| 2,800   | Simon Property Group, Inc.                         | 251,692    |
|         | Total Real Estate                                  | 2,913,157  |
|         | <b>Road &amp; Rail 0.4%</b>                        |            |
| 500     | Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation           | 49,945     |
| 5,500   | CSX Corporation                                    | 345,455    |
| 1,000   | Norfolk Southern Corporation                       | 62,670     |
| 4,100   | Ryder System, Inc.                                 | 282,408    |
| 4,400   | Union Pacific Corporation                          | 332,200    |

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

|        |  |           |
|--------|--|-----------|
|        | Total Road & Rail                          | 1,072,678 |
|        | <b>Semiconductors &amp; Equipment 1.3%</b> |           |
| 22,600 | Advanced Micro Devices, Inc., (2)          | 131,758   |
| 1,100  | Altera Corporation                         | 22,770    |
| 2,300  | Analog Devices, Inc.                       | 73,071    |
| 6,700  | Applied Materials, Inc.                    | 127,903   |
| 79,100 | Intel Corporation                          | 1,699,068 |
| 1,500  | KLA-Tencor Corporation                     | 61,065    |
| 3,300  | Linear Technology Corporation              | 107,481   |
| 9,300  | LSI Logic Corporation, (2)                 | 57,102    |
| 43,700 | Micron Technology, Inc., (2)               | 262,200   |
| 3,100  | National Semiconductor Corporation         | 63,674    |
| 6,500  | NVIDIA Corporation, (2)                    | 121,680   |
| 8,900  | QLogic Corporation, (2)                    | 129,851   |
| 20,500 | Texas Instruments Incorporated             | 577,280   |
|        | Total Semiconductors & Equipment           | 3,434,903 |
|        | <b>Software 2.6%</b>                       |           |
| 1,800  | Akamai Technologies, Inc., (2)             | 62,622    |
| 1,600  | Autodesk, Inc., (2)                        | 54,096    |
| 5,400  | BMC Software, Inc., (2)                    | 194,400   |
| 3,400  | Citrix Systems, (2)                        | 99,994    |
| 4,100  | Electronic Arts Inc. (EA), (2)             | 182,163   |
| 18,100 | Intuit Inc., (2)                           | 499,017   |
| 99,700 | Microsoft Corporation                      | 2,742,747 |
| 85,700 | Oracle Corporation, (2)                    | 1,799,700 |

| Shares | Description (1)                                  | Value      |
|--------|--|------------|
|        | <b>Software (continued)</b>                      |            |
| 40,400 | Symantec Corporation, (2)                        | \$ 781,740 |
| 12,800 | VeriSign, Inc., (2)                              | 483,840    |
|        | Total Software                                   | 6,900,319  |
|        | <b>Specialty Retail 1.6%</b>                     |            |
| 6,400  | Abercrombie & Fitch Co.,<br>Class A              | 401,152    |
| 200    | AutoZone, Inc., (2)                              | 24,202     |
| 3,900  | Bed Bath and Beyond Inc., (2)                    | 109,590    |
| 11,400 | Best Buy Co., Inc.                               | 451,440    |
| 28,000 | GameStop Corporation, (2)                        | 1,131,200  |
| 34,700 | Gap, Inc.  | 578,449    |
| 4,800  | Lowe's Companies, Inc.                           | 99,600     |
| 8,000  | Staples, Inc.                                    | 190,000    |
| 12,400 | Tiffany & Co.                                    | 505,300    |
| 23,600 | TJX Companies, Inc.                              | 742,692    |
|        | Total Specialty Retail                           | 4,233,625  |
|        | <b>Textiles, Apparel &amp; Luxury Goods 0.9%</b> |            |
| 11,700 | Coach, Inc., (2)                                 | 337,896    |
| 19,000 | Nike, Inc., Class B                              | 1,132,590  |
| 12,900 | VF Corporation                                   | 918,222    |
|        | Total Textiles, Apparel & Luxury<br>Goods        | 2,388,708  |
|        | <b>Thrifts &amp; Mortgage Finance 0.8%</b>       |            |
| 10,700 | Federal Home Loan Mortgage<br>Corporation        | 175,480    |
| 13,400 | Federal National Mortgage<br>Association         | 261,434    |
| 86,800 | Hudson City Bancorp, Inc.                        | 1,447,824  |
| 50,200 | Washington Mutual, Inc.                          | 247,486    |
|        | Total Thrifts & Mortgage Finance                 | 2,132,224  |
|        | <b>Tobacco 0.6%</b>                              |            |
| 26,600 | Altria Group, Inc.                               | 546,896    |
| 4,200  | Lorillard Inc.                                   | 290,472    |
| 14,600 | Philip Morris International, (2)                 | 721,094    |
|        | Total Tobacco                                    | 1,558,462  |
|        | <b>Trading Companies &amp; Distributors 0.0%</b> |            |
| 1,100  | W.W. Grainger, Inc.                              | 89,980     |
|        | <b>Wireless Telecommunication Services 0.0%</b>  |            |
| 2,000  | American Tower Corporation, (2)                  | 84,500     |

**Total Common Stocks (cost  
\$266,785,820) 254,656,441**

| <b>Principal<br/>Amount<br/>(000)</b> | <b>Description (1)</b>   | <b>Coupon</b> | <b>Maturity</b> | <b>Rating (3)</b> | <b>Value</b>     |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                       | <b>U.S. Government and Agency Obligations</b>                                  | <b>2.2%</b>   |                 |                   |                  |
| \$ 6,000                              | U.S. Treasury Bills  | 0.000%        | 10/16/2008      | Aaa               | \$ 5,967,510     |
|                                       | <b>Total U.S. Government and<br/>Agency Obligations (cost<br/>\$5,975,513)</b> |               |                 |                   | <b>5,967,510</b> |

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

JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)  
Portfolio of INVESTMENTS June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

| Principal<br>Amount (000) | Description (1)   | Coupon                 | Maturity           | Value              |                       |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| \$ 5,162                  | <b>Short-Term Investments</b>   | <b>2.0%</b>            |                    |                    |                       |
|                           | Repurchase Agreement with State Street Bank, dated 6/30/08, repurchase price \$5,162,669, collateralized by \$5,255,000 U.S. Treasury Notes, 2.125%, due 1/31/10, value \$5,268,138 | 1.350%                 | 7/01/08            | \$ 5,162,475       |                       |
|                           | <b>Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$5,162,475)</b>  |                        |                    | <b>5,162,475</b>   |                       |
|                           | <b>Total Investments (cost \$277,923,808) 99.3%</b>   |                        |                    | <b>265,786,426</b> |                       |
| Number<br>of Contracts    | Type  | Notional<br>Amount (4) | Expiration<br>Date | Strike<br>Price    | Value                 |
|                           | <b>Call Options Written</b>   | <b>0.0%</b>            |                    |                    |                       |
| (705,967)                 | Custom Basket 1<br>NASDAQ   | \$ (70,596,735)        | 7/19/08            | \$100.0            | \$ (92,341)           |
| (713,376)                 | Custom Basket 3<br>NASDAQ   | (71,337,637)           | 7/19/08            | 100.0              | (1,070)               |
| <b>(1,419,343)</b>        | <b>Total Call Options Written (premiums received \$3,867,897)</b>   | <b>(141,934,372)</b>   |                    |                    | <b>(93,411)</b>       |
|                           | <b>Other Assets Less Liabilities 0.7%</b>   |                        |                    |                    | <b>2,026,787</b>      |
|                           | <b>Net Assets 100%</b>  |                        |                    |                    | <b>\$ 267,719,802</b> |

**Futures Contracts Outstanding at June 30, 2008:**

| <b>Type</b>      | <b>Contract<br/>Position</b> | <b>Number<br/>of<br/>Contracts</b> | <b>Contract<br/>Expiration</b> | <b>Value at<br/>June 30, 2008</b> | <b>Unrealized<br/>Appreciation<br/>(Depreciation)</b> |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| S&P 500<br>Index | Long                         | 150                                | 9/08                           | \$9,608,250                       | \$ (582,450)  |

- (1) All percentages shown in Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets.
- (2) Non-income producing.
- (3) Rating Using the higher of Standard & Poor's Group (Standard & Poor's) or Moody's Investor Service, Inc. (Moody's) rating. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor's or Baa by Moody's are considered to be below investment grade.
- (4) For disclosure purposes, Notional Amount is calculated by multiplying the Number of Contracts by the Strike Price.

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

Statement of  
ASSETS & LIABILITIES

June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

**Assets**

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| Investments, at value (cost \$277,923,808) | \$ 265,786,426     |
| Receivables:                               |                    |
| Dividends                                  | 376,872            |
| Interest                                   | 318                |
| Investments sold                           | 9,465,319          |
| Variation margin on futures contracts      | 8,250              |
| Other assets                               | 9,277              |
| <b>Total assets</b>                        | <b>275,646,462</b> |

**Liabilities**

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Call options written, at value (premiums received \$3,867,897) | 93,411                |
| Payable for investments purchased                              | 2,685,371             |
| Accrued expenses:  |                       |
| Management fees  | 213,656               |
| Other  | 105,514               |
| Dividends payable  | 4,828,708             |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                                       | <b>7,926,660</b>      |
| <b>Net assets</b>  | <b>\$ 267,719,802</b> |
| Shares outstanding   | 16,443,986            |
| Net asset value per share outstanding                          | \$ 16.28              |

**Net assets consist of:**

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Shares, \$.01 par value per share   | \$ 164,440            |
| Paid-in surplus   | 294,539,960           |
| Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income                            | (12,354,569)          |
| Accumulated net realized gain (loss) from investments and derivative transactions     | (5,684,683)           |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and derivative transactions | (8,945,346)           |
| <b>Net assets</b>   | <b>\$ 267,719,802</b> |
| Authorized shares   | Unlimited             |





Statement of  
OPERATIONS

Six Months Ended June 30, 2008 (Unaudited)

**Investment Income**

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Dividends               | \$ 2,504,270 |
| Interest                | 159,746      |
| Total investment income | 2,664,016    |

**Expenses**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Management fees                                      | 1,333,594 |
| Shareholders' servicing agent fees and expenses      | 187       |
| Custodians' fees and expenses                        | 72,757    |
| Trustees' fees and expenses                          | 3,376     |
| Professional fees                                    | 29,715    |
| Shareholders' reports' printing and mailing expenses | 37,582    |
| Stock exchange listing fees                          | 4,739     |
| Investor relations expense                           | 23,750    |
| Other expenses                                       | 31,837    |
| Total expenses before custodian fee credit           | 1,537,537 |
| Custodian fee credit                                 | (5,486)   |
| Net expenses   | 1,532,051 |
| Net investment income                                | 1,131,965 |

**Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)**

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Net realized gain (loss) from:                           |                 |
| Investments  | (14,801,417)    |
| Foreign currencies                                       | 78              |
| Futures  | (1,534,520)     |
| Call options written                                     | 11,219,140      |
| Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of: |                 |
| Investments  | (22,830,305)    |
| Futures  | (185,476)       |
| Call options written                                     | 327,022         |
| Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)                  | (27,805,478)    |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations    | \$ (26,673,513) |

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*



Statement of  
CHANGES in NET ASSETS (Unaudited)

|  | <b>Six Months<br/>Ended<br/>6/30/08</b> | <b>For the Period<br/>3/27/07<br/>(commencement of<br/>operations)<br/>through 12/31/07</b> |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Operations</b>  |   |   |
| Net investment income  | \$ 1,131,965                            | \$ 2,429,993  |
| Net realized gain (loss) from:   |   |   |
| Investments  | (14,801,417)                            | (3,166,043)   |
| Foreign currencies   | 78                                      |   |
| Futures  | (1,534,520)                             | 589,158   |
| Call options written   | 11,219,140                              | 1,927,754   |
| Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:                         |   |   |
| Investments  | (22,830,305)                            | 10,692,923  |
| Futures  | (185,476)                               | (396,974)   |
| Call options written   | 327,022                                 | 3,447,464   |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations                            | (26,673,513)                            | 15,524,275  |
| <b>Distributions to Shareholders</b>   |   |   |
| From and in excess of net investment income                                      | (13,484,069)                            |   |
| From net investment income   |   | (2,351,291)   |
| Tax return of capital  |   | (18,846,940)  |
| Decrease in net assets from distributions to shareholders                        | (13,484,069)                            | (21,198,231)  |
| <b>Capital Share Transactions</b>  |   |   |
| Proceeds from sale of shares, net of offering costs                              |   | 311,671,189   |
| Proceeds from shares issued to shareholders due to reinvestment of distributions |   | 2,215,645   |
| Cost of shares repurchased   |   | (435,578)   |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets from capital share transactions            |   | 313,451,256   |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets  | (40,157,582)                            | 307,777,300   |
| Net assets at the beginning of period  | 307,877,384                             | 100,084   |
| Net assets at the end of period  | \$ 267,719,802                          | \$ 307,877,384  |
| Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income at the end of period  | \$ (12,354,569)                         | \$ (2,465)  |



Notes to  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Unaudited)

**1. General Information and Significant Accounting Policies**

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

Prior to the commencement of operations, the Fund had no operations other than those related to organizational matters, the initial capital contribution of \$100,084 by Nuveen Asset Management (the Adviser), a wholly owned subsidiary of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (Nuveen), the recording of the organization expenses (\$11,000) and their reimbursement by Nuveen Investments, LLC, also a wholly owned subsidiary of Nuveen.

The Fund seeks 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 by employing a proprietary mathematical process designed by the Fund's sub-adviser, Enhanced Investment Technologies, LLC (INTECH), that seeks to provide, over time, risk-adjusted excess returns above the S&P 500 Index with an equal or lesser amount of relative investment risk.

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.

*Investment Valuation*

Exchange-listed securities are generally valued at the last sales price on the securities exchange on which such securities are primarily traded. Securities traded on a securities exchange for which there are no transactions on a given day or securities not listed on a securities exchange are valued at the mean of the closing bid and asked prices. Securities traded on Nasdaq are valued at the Nasdaq Official Closing Price. The value of options written are based on the last sale price in the case of exchange-traded options or, in the case of options traded in the OTC market, the last asked price. Futures contracts are valued using the closing settlement price, or, in the absence of such a price, at the mean of the bid and asked prices. If the pricing service is unable to supply a price for an investment or derivative instrument the Fund may use market quotes provided by major broker/dealers in such investments. If it is determined that the market price for an investment or derivative instrument is unavailable or inappropriate, the Board of Trustees of the Fund, or its designee, may establish fair value in accordance with procedures established in good faith by the Board of Trustees. Short-term investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value.

*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.

*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.

*Income Taxes*

## Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSRS

The Fund intends to comply with the requirements of Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies. The Fund intends to distribute substantially all of its investment company taxable income to shareholders. 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.

Effective June 29, 2007, the Fund adopted Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Interpretation No. 48

Accounting for Uncertainty in Income Taxes (FIN 48). FIN 48 provides guidance for how uncertain tax positions should be recognized, measured, presented and disclosed in the financial statements. FIN 48 requires the affirmative evaluation of tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the course of preparing the Fund's tax returns to determine whether it is more-likely-than-not, (i.e., a greater than 50-percent likelihood) of being sustained by the applicable tax authority. Tax positions not deemed to meet the more-likely-than-not threshold may result in a tax expense in the current year.

Implementation of FIN 48 required management of the Fund to analyze all open tax years, as defined by the statute of limitations, for all major jurisdictions, which includes federal and certain states. 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). The Fund has no examinations in progress.

22

---

For all open tax years and all major taxing jurisdictions through the end of the reporting period, management of the Fund has reviewed all tax positions taken or expected to be taken in the preparation of the Fund's tax returns and concluded the adoption of FIN 48 resulted in no impact to the Fund's net assets or results of operations as of and during the six months ended June 30, 2008.

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.

#### *Dividends and Distributions to Shareholders*

Distributions to shareholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date. The amount and timing of distributions are determined in accordance with federal corporate income tax regulations, which may differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States

The Fund makes quarterly cash distributions to shareholders of a stated dollar amount per share. Subject to approval and oversight by the Fund's Board of Trustees, 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 from net unrealized gains, if any, would be distributed from the Fund's assets and would be treated by shareholders as a non-taxable distribution for tax purposes. In the event that total distributions during a calendar year exceed the Fund's total return on net asset value, the difference will be treated as a return of capital for tax purposes and will reduce net asset value per share. If the Fund's total return on net asset value exceeds total distributions during a calendar year, the excess will be reflected as an increase in net asset value per share. The final determination of the source and character of all distributions for the fiscal year are made after the end of the fiscal year and reflected in the financial statements contained in the annual report as of December 31 each year.

The actual character of distributions made by the Fund during the period March 27, 2007 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2007, is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

The distributions made by the Fund during the six months ended June 30, 2008, are provisionally classified as being From and in excess of net investment income, and those distributions will be classified as being from net investment income, net realized capital gains and/or a return of capital for tax purposes after the fiscal year end. For purposes of calculating Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income as of June 30, 2008, the distribution amounts provisionally classified as From and in excess of net investment income were treated as being entirely from net investment income. Consequently, the financial statements at June 30, 2008, reflect an over-distribution of net investment income.

#### *Foreign Currency Transactions*

The Fund is authorized to engage in foreign currency exchange transactions, including foreign currency forward, futures, options and swap contracts. 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 its 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. The gains or losses resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates are included in Realized gain (loss) from foreign currencies and Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of

foreign currencies on the Statement of Operations.

The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, investments and other assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Investments and 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.

*Futures Contracts*

The Fund is authorized to invest in futures contracts. Upon entering into a futures contract, the Fund is required to deposit with the broker an amount of cash or liquid securities equal to a specified percentage of the contract amount. This is known as the initial margin. Subsequent payments ( variation margin ) are made or received by the Fund each day, depending on the daily fluctuation of the value of the contract.



Notes to  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) (Unaudited)

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. 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. Cash held by the broker to cover initial margin requirements on open futures contracts, if any, is recognized in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Additionally, the Statement of Assets and Liabilities reflects a receivable or payable for the variation margin when applicable.

Risks of investments in futures contracts include the possible adverse movement 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.

*Options Transactions*

The Fund is authorized to write (sell) call options, primarily on custom baskets of securities. When the Fund writes a call option, an amount equal to the net premium received (the premium less commission) is recorded as a liability and is subsequently adjusted to reflect the current value of the written option until the option expires or the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction. When a call option 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 effecting a closing purchase transaction, including commission, is treated as a net realized gain on option contracts written or, if the net premium received is less than the amount paid, as a net realized loss on option contracts written. The Fund, as writer of a call option, bears the risk of an unfavorable change in the market value of the security or index underlying the written option. There is the risk the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid market.

*Organization and Offering Costs*

Nuveen Investments, LLC has agreed to reimburse all organization expenses (approximately \$11,000) and pay all offering costs (other than the sales load) that exceed \$.04 per share. The Fund's share of offering costs of \$613,811 was recorded as a reduction of the proceeds from the sale of shares.

*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 seller defaults, and the fair value of the collateral declines, realization of the collateral may be delayed or limited.

*Custodian Fee Credit*

The Fund has an arrangement with the custodian bank whereby certain custodian fees and expenses are reduced by net credits earned on the Fund's cash on deposit with the bank. Such deposit arrangements are an alternative to overnight investments. Credits for cash balances may be offset by charges for any days on which the Fund overdraws its account at the custodian bank.

*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.

*Use of Estimates*

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States 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. Fair Value Measurements

During the current fiscal period, the Fund adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 157, Fair Value Measurements (SFAS 157). SFAS 157 defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value in generally accepted accounting principles, and expands disclosure about fair value measurements. In determining the value of the Fund's investments various inputs are used. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 Quoted prices in active markets for identical securities.

Level 2 Other significant observable inputs (including quoted prices for similar securities, interest rates, prepayment speeds, credit risk, etc.).

Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs (including management's assumptions in determining the fair value of investments).

The inputs or methodology used for valuing securities are not an indication of the risk associated with investing in those securities.

The following is a summary of the Fund's fair value measurements as of June 30, 2008:

|                      | <b>Level 1</b> | <b>Level 2</b> | <b>Level 3</b> | <b>Total</b>   |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Investments          | \$ 265,786,426 | \$             | \$             | \$ 265,786,426 |
| Derivatives*         | (582,450)      |                |                | (582,450)      |
| Call options written |                | (93,411)       |                | (93,411)       |
| Total                | \$ 265,203,976 | \$ (93,411)    | \$             | \$ 265,110,565 |

\* Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation).

## 3. Fund Shares

On November 21, 2007, the Fund's Board of Trustees approved an open-market share repurchase program, as part of a broad, ongoing effort designed to support the market prices of the Fund's shares. Under the terms of the program, the Fund may repurchase up to 10% of its outstanding shares.

Transactions in shares were as follows:

|  | <b>Six Months<br/>Ended<br/>6/30/08</b> | <b>For the Period<br/>3/27/07<br/>(commencement<br/>of operations)<br/>through 12/31/07</b> |
|--|---|---|
| Shares sold  |   | 16,350,000  |
| Shares issued to shareholders due to reinvestment of distributions |   | 116,246   |
| Shares repurchased   |   | (27,500)  |

|   |            |
|---|------------|
|   | 16,438,746 |
| Weighted average price per share repurchased    | \$15.82    |
| Weighted average discount per share repurchased | 14.14%     |

**4. Investment Transactions**

Purchases and sales (including maturities but excluding call options written, short-term investments and derivative transactions) during the six months ended June 30, 2008, were as follows:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Purchases:                             |               |
| Investment securities                  | \$114,194,363 |
| U.S. Government and agency obligations | 5,957,958     |
| Sales and maturities:                  |               |
| Investment securities                  | 116,208,538   |
| U.S. Government and agency obligations |               |

Notes to  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued) (Unaudited)

Transactions in call options written during the six months ended June 30, 2008, were as follows:

|  | <b>Number of<br/>Contracts</b> | <b>Premiums<br/>Received</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Outstanding, beginning of period                         | 1,404,575                      | \$ 5,916,687                 |
| Call options written                                     | 5,620,545                      | 16,983,620                   |
| Call options terminated in closing purchase transactions | (3,477,485)                    | (10,720,222)                 |
| Call options expired                                     | (2,128,292)                    | (8,312,188)                  |
| Outstanding, end of period                               | 1,419,343                      | \$ 3,867,897                 |

#### 5. Income Tax Information

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 the recognition of unrealized gain or loss for tax (mark-to-market) on futures contracts and timing differences in recognizing certain gains and losses on investment transactions. To the extent that differences arise that are permanent in nature, such amounts are reclassified within the capital accounts on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities presented in the annual report, based on their federal tax basis treatment; temporary differences do not require reclassification. Temporary and permanent differences do not impact the net asset value of the Fund.

At June 30, 2008, the cost of investments (excluding call options written) was as follows:

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Cost of investments | \$ 278,532,296 |
|---------------------|----------------|

Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments (excluding call options written) at June 30, 2008, were as follows:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Gross unrealized:   |                 |
| Appreciation  | \$ 14,835,249   |
| Depreciation  | (27,581,119)    |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments | \$ (12,745,870) |

The tax components of undistributed net ordinary income and net long-term capital gains at December 31, 2007, the Fund's last tax year end, were as follows:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Undistributed net ordinary income *       | \$ |
| Undistributed net long-term capital gains |    |

\* Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends, interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.

The tax character of distributions paid during the Fund's tax year ended December 31, 2007, was designated for purposes of the dividends paid deduction as follows:

**For the period March 27, 2007 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2007**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Distributions from net ordinary income * | \$ 2,351,291 |
| Tax return of capital                    | 18,846,940   |

\* Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends, interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.

The Fund elected to defer net realized losses from investments incurred from November 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007, ( post-October losses ) in accordance with federal income tax regulations. Post-October losses of \$356,218 were treated as having arisen on the first day of the current fiscal year.

**6. Management Fees and Other Transactions with Affiliates**

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

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

The annual fund-level fee, payable monthly, is based upon the average daily Managed Assets of the Fund as follows:

| <b>Average Daily Managed Assets</b> | <b>Fund-Level Fee Rate</b> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| For the first \$500 million         | .7500%                     |
| For the next \$500 million          | .7250                      |
| For the next \$500 million          | .7000                      |
| For the next \$500 million          | .6750                      |
| For Managed Assets over \$2 billion | .6500                      |

The annual complex-level fee, payable monthly, which is additive to the fund-level fee, for all Nuveen sponsored funds in the U.S., is based on the aggregate amount of total fund assets managed as stated in the table below. As of June 30, 2008, the complex-level fee rate was .1868%.

The complex-level fee schedule is as follows:

| <b>Complex-Level Asset Breakpoint Level <sup>(1)</sup></b> | <b>Effective Rate at Breakpoint Level</b> |
|--|---|
| \$55 billion   | .2000%                                    |
| \$56 billion   | .1996                                     |
| \$57 billion   | .1989                                     |
| \$60 billion   | .1961                                     |
| \$63 billion   | .1931                                     |
| \$66 billion   | .1900                                     |
| \$71 billion   | .1851                                     |
| \$76 billion   | .1806                                     |
| \$80 billion   | .1773                                     |
| \$91 billion   | .1691                                     |
| \$125 billion  | .1599                                     |
| \$200 billion  | .1505                                     |
| \$250 billion  | .1469                                     |
| \$300 billion  | .1445                                     |

(1) The complex-level fee component of the management fee for the funds is calculated based upon the aggregate Managed Assets ( Managed Assets means the average daily net assets of each fund including assets attributable to preferred stock issued by or borrowings by the Nuveen funds) of Nuveen-sponsored funds in the U.S.

The management fee compensates the Adviser for overall investment advisory and administrative services and general office facilities. The Adviser is responsible for the overall strategy and asset allocation decisions. The Adviser has entered into a Sub-Advisory Agreement with INTECH, under which INTECH manages the portion of the Fund's investment portfolio allocated to common stocks. The Adviser will also be responsible for the implementation of the Fund's option strategy. INTECH is compensated for its services to the Fund from the management fee paid to the Adviser.

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 of Trustees 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.

## **7. New Accounting Pronouncement**

### *Financial Accounting Standards Board Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 161*

In March 2008, the FASB issued SFAS No. 161, Disclosures about Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities. This standard is intended to enhance financial statement disclosures for derivative instruments and hedging activities and enable investors to understand: a) how and why a fund uses derivative instruments, b) how derivative instruments and related hedge items are accounted for, and c) how derivative instruments and related hedge items affect a fund's financial position, results of operations and cash flows. SFAS No. 161 is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. As of June 30, 2008, management does not believe the adoption of SFAS No. 161 will impact the financial statement amounts; however, additional footnote disclosures may be required about the use of derivative instruments and hedging items.

## **8. Subsequent Events**

### *Common Share Repurchases*

The Board of Directors/Trustees for each of Nuveen's 120 closed-end funds approved a program, effective August 7, 2008, under which each fund may repurchase up to 10% of its common shares.

27

---



Financial  
HIGHLIGHTS (Unaudited)

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:

| Year<br>Ended<br>12/31: | Beginning<br>Net<br>Asset<br>Value | Investment Operations<br>Net   |   |                                      | Less Distributions      |                                |          | Offering<br>Costs | Ending<br>Net<br>Asset<br>Value | Ending<br>Market<br>Value |       |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
|                         |                                    | Net<br>Investment<br>Income(a) | Realized/<br>Unrealized<br>Gain<br>(Loss) | Net<br>Investment<br>Total<br>Income | Net<br>Capital<br>Gains | Tax<br>Return<br>of<br>Capital | Total    |                   |                                 |                           |       |
| 2008(c)                 | \$18.72                            | \$ .07                         | \$ (1.69)                                 | \$ (1.62)                            | \$ (.82)****            | \$                             | \$ (.82) | \$                | \$ 16.28                        | \$ 14.40                  |       |
| 2007(b)                 | 19.10                              | .15                            | .81                                       | 0.96                                 | (.14)                   |                                | (1.16)   | (1.30)            | (0.04)                          | 18.72                     | 16.35 |

| Total Returns          |                           | Ratios/Supplemental Data                   |              |                       |   |                       |                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|
|                        |                           | Ratios to Average Net Assets Before Credit |              |                       | Ratios to Average Net Assets After Credit** |                       |                         |
| Based on Market Value* | Based on Net Asset Value* | Ending Net Assets (000)                    | Net Expenses | Net Investment Income | Net Investment Expenses                     | Net Investment Income | Portfolio Turnover Rate |
| (6.99)%                | (8.75)%                   | \$267,720                                  | 1.08%***     | .79%***               | 1.08%***                                    | .80%***               | 25%                     |
| (12.08)                | 4.84                      | 307,877                                    | 1.07***      | 1.03***               | 1.07***                                     | 1.03***               | 73                      |

\* Total Return Based on Market Value 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.

Total Return Based on Net Asset Value is the combination of changes in net asset value, reinvested dividend income at net asset value and reinvested capital gains distributions at net asset value, 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 net asset value. 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 net asset value), and therefore may be different from the price used in the calculation. Total returns are not annualized.

\*\* After custodian fee credit.

\*\*\* Annualized.

\*\*\*\* Represents distributions paid From and in excess of net investment income for the six months ended June 30, 2008.

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

(b) For the period March 27, 2007 (commencement of operations) through December 31, 2007.

(c) For the six months ended June 30, 2008.

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

Annual Investment  
Management Agreement  
APPROVAL PROCESS

The Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the *1940 Act*), provides, in substance, that each investment advisory agreement between a fund and its investment adviser (including sub-advisers) will continue in effect from year to year only if its continuance is approved at least annually by the fund's board members, including by a vote of a majority of the board members who are not parties to the advisory agreement or interested persons of any parties (the *Independent Board Members*), cast in person at a meeting called for the purpose of considering such approval. In connection with such approvals, the fund's board members must request and evaluate, and the investment adviser is required to furnish, such information as may be reasonably necessary to evaluate the terms of the advisory agreement. Accordingly, at a meeting held on May 28-29, 2008 (the *May Meeting*), the Board of Trustees (the *Board* and each Trustee, a *Board Member*) of the Fund, including a majority of the Independent Board Members, considered and approved the continuation of the advisory and sub-advisory agreements for the Fund for an additional one-year period. These agreements include the investment advisory agreement between Nuveen Asset Management ( *NAM* ) and the Fund and the sub-advisory agreement between NAM and Enhanced Investment Technologies, LLC (INTECH) (the *Sub-Adviser*). In preparation for their considerations at the May Meeting, the Board also held a separate meeting on April 23, 2008 (the *April Meeting*). Accordingly, the factors considered and determinations made regarding the renewals by the Independent Board Members include those made at the April Meeting.

In addition, in evaluating the advisory agreement (the *Investment Management Agreement*) and sub-advisory agreement (the *Sub-Advisory Agreement*, and the Investment Management Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement are each an *Advisory Agreement*), as described in further detail below, the Independent Board Members reviewed a broad range of information relating to the Fund, NAM and the Sub-Adviser (NAM and the Sub-Adviser are each a *Fund Adviser*), including absolute performance, fee and expense information for the Fund as well as comparative performance, fee and expense information for a comparable peer group of funds, the performance information of recognized and/or customized benchmarks (as applicable), the profitability of Nuveen for its advisory activities (which includes its wholly owned subsidiaries), and other information regarding the organization, personnel, and services provided by the respective Fund Adviser. The Independent Board Members also met quarterly as well as at other times as the need arose during the year and took into account the information provided at such meetings and the knowledge gained therefrom. Prior to approving the renewal of the Advisory Agreements, the Independent Board Members reviewed the foregoing information with their independent legal counsel and with management, reviewed materials from independent legal counsel describing applicable law and their duties in reviewing advisory contracts, and met with independent legal counsel in private sessions without management present. The Independent Board Members considered the legal advice provided by independent legal counsel and relied upon their knowledge of the Fund Adviser, its services and the Fund resulting from their meetings and other interactions throughout the year and their own business judgment in determining the factors to be considered in evaluating the Advisory Agreements. Each Board Member may have accorded different weight to the various factors in reaching his or her conclusions with respect to the Fund's Advisory Agreements. The Independent Board Members did not identify any single factor as all-important or controlling. The Independent Board Members' considerations were instead based on a comprehensive consideration of all the information presented. The principal factors considered by the Board and its conclusions are described below.

**A. Nature, Extent and Quality of Services**

In considering renewal of the Investment Management Agreement, the Independent Board Members considered the nature, extent and quality of the Fund Adviser's services, including advisory services and administrative services. The Independent Board Members reviewed materials outlining, among other things, NAM's organization and business; the

types of services that NAM or its affiliates provide and are expected to provide to the Fund; the performance record of the Fund (as described in further detail below); and any initiatives Nuveen had taken for the applicable fund product line. With respect to personnel, the Independent Board Members evaluated the background, experience and track record of the Fund Adviser's investment personnel. In this regard, the Independent Board Members considered the additional investment in personnel to support Nuveen fund advisory activities, including in operations, product management and

30

---

marketing as well as related fund support functions, including sales, executive, finance, human resources and information technology. The Independent Board Members also reviewed information regarding portfolio manager compensation arrangements to evaluate NAM's ability to attract and retain high quality investment personnel.

In evaluating the services of NAM, the Independent Board Members also considered NAM's oversight of the performance, business activities and compliance of the Sub-Adviser, the ability to supervise the Fund's other service providers and given the importance of compliance, NAM's compliance program. Among other things, the Independent Board Members considered the report of the chief compliance officer regarding the Fund's compliance policies and procedures.

In addition to advisory services, the Independent Board Members considered the quality of administrative services provided by NAM and its affiliates including product management, fund administration, oversight of service providers, shareholder services, administration of Board relations, regulatory and portfolio compliance and legal support.

The Independent Board Members reviewed an evaluation of the Sub-Adviser from NAM, including information as to the process followed by NAM in evaluating sub-advisers. The evaluation also included information relating to the Sub-Adviser's organization, operations, personnel, assets under management, investment philosophy, strategies and techniques in managing the Fund, developments affecting the Sub-Adviser, and an analysis of the Sub-Adviser. As described in further detail below, the Board considered the performance of the Fund. The Board also recognized that the Sub-Advisory Agreement was essentially an agreement for portfolio management services only and the Sub-Adviser was not expected to supply other significant administrative services to the Fund. In addition, the Independent Board Members noted that they anticipate visiting each sub-adviser to the Nuveen funds at least once over the course of a multiple-year rotation. The Independent Board Members further noted that NAM recommended the renewal of the Sub-Advisory Agreement and considered the basis for such recommendations and any qualifications in connection therewith.

In addition to the foregoing services, the Independent Board Members also noted the additional services that NAM or its affiliates provide to closed-end funds, including, in particular, its secondary market support activities and the costs of such activities. The Independent Board Members recognized Nuveen's continued commitment to supporting the secondary market for the common shares of its closed-end funds through a variety of programs designed to raise investor and analyst awareness and understanding of closed-end funds. These efforts include maintaining an investor relations program to timely provide information and education to financial advisers and investors; providing advertising and marketing for the closed-end funds; maintaining its closed-end fund website; and providing educational seminars. With respect to closed-end funds that utilize leverage through the issuance of auction rate preferred securities ( ARPS ), the Board has recognized the unprecedented market conditions in the auction rate market industry with the failure of the auction process. The Independent Board Members noted Nuveen's efforts and the resources and personnel employed to analyze the situation, explore potential alternatives and develop and implement solutions that serve the interests of the affected funds and all of their respective shareholders. The Independent Board Members further noted Nuveen's commitment and efforts to keep investors and financial advisers informed as to its progress in addressing the ARPS situation through, among other things, conference calls, press releases, and information posted on its website as well as its refinancing activities. The Independent Board Members also noted Nuveen's continued support for holders of preferred shares of its closed-end funds by, among other things, seeking distribution for preferred shares with new market participants, managing relations with remarketing agents and the broker community, maintaining the leverage and risk management of leverage and maintaining systems necessary to test compliance with rating agency criteria.

Based on their review, the Independent Board Members found that, overall, the nature, extent and quality of services provided (and expected to be provided) to the Fund under the Investment Management Agreement or Sub-Advisory Agreement, as applicable, were satisfactory.

Annual Investment  
Management Agreement  
APPROVAL PROCESS (continued)

## **B. The Investment Performance of the Fund and Fund Advisers**

The Board considered the investment performance of the Fund, including the Fund's historic performance as well as its performance compared to funds with similar investment objectives (the *Performance Peer Group*) based on data provided by an independent third party (as described below). In addition, the Independent Board Members reviewed the Fund's historic performance compared to recognized and/or customized benchmarks (as applicable).

In evaluating the performance information, the Board considered whether the Fund has operated within its investment objectives and parameters and the impact that the investment mandates may have had on performance. In addition, in comparing a fund's performance with that of its Performance Peer Group, the Independent Board Members took into account that the closest Performance Peer Group in certain instances may not adequately reflect the respective fund's investment objectives and strategies thereby hindering a meaningful comparison of the fund's performance with that of the Performance Peer Group.

The Independent Board Members reviewed performance information including, among other things, total return information compared with the Fund's Performance Peer Group as well as recognized and/or customized benchmarks (as appropriate) for the one-, three- and five-year periods (as applicable) ending December 31, 2007 and with the Fund's Performance Peer Group for the quarter, one-, three-, and five- year periods ending March 31, 2008 (as applicable). This information supplemented the Fund performance information provided to the Board at each of its quarterly meetings. Based on their review, the Independent Board Members determined that the Fund's investment performance over time had been satisfactory.

## **C. Fees, Expenses and Profitability**

### **1. Fees and Expenses**

The Board evaluated the management fees and expenses of the Fund reviewing, among other things, such Fund's gross management fees (which take into account breakpoints), net management fees (which take into account fee waivers or reimbursements) and total expense ratios (before and after expense reimbursements and/or waivers) in absolute terms as well as compared to the gross management fees, net management fees (after waivers and/or reimbursements) and total expense ratios (before and after waivers) of a comparable universe of unaffiliated funds based on data provided by an independent data provider (the *Peer Universe*) and/or a more focused subset of funds therein (the *Peer Group*). The Independent Board Members further reviewed data regarding the construction of Peer Groups as well as the methods of measurement for the fee and expense analysis and the performance analysis. In reviewing the comparisons of fee and expense information, the Independent Board Members took into account that in certain instances various factors such as the size of the Fund relative to peers, the size and particular composition of the Peer Group, the investment objectives of the peers, expense anomalies, and the timing of information used may impact the comparative data, thereby limiting the ability to make a meaningful comparison. The Independent Board Members also considered, among other things, the differences in the use of leverage. In addition, in reviewing the fee schedule for the Fund, the Independent Board Members considered the fund-level and complex-wide breakpoint schedules (described in further detail below) and any fee waivers and reimbursements provided by Nuveen (applicable, in particular, for certain closed-end funds launched since 1999). Based on their review of the fee and expense information provided, the Independent Board Members determined that the Fund's management fees and net total expense ratio were reasonable in light of the nature, extent and quality of services provided to the Fund.

2. Comparisons with the Fees of Other Clients

The Independent Board Members further reviewed information regarding the nature of services and fee rates offered by NAM to other clients. Such clients include separately managed accounts (both retail and institutional accounts) and funds that are not offered by Nuveen but are sub-advised by one of Nuveen's investment management teams. In evaluating the comparisons of fees, the Independent Board Members noted that the fee rates charged to the Fund and other clients vary, among other things, because of the different services involved

32

---



and the additional regulatory and compliance requirements associated with registered investment companies, such as the Fund. Accordingly, the Independent Board Members considered the differences in the product types, including, but not limited to, the services provided, the structure and operations, product distribution and costs thereof, portfolio investment policies, investor profiles, account sizes and regulatory requirements. The Independent Board Members noted, in particular, that the range of services provided to the Fund (as discussed above) is much more extensive than that provided to separately managed accounts. Given the inherent differences in the products, particularly the extensive services provided to the Fund, the Independent Board Members believe such facts justify the different levels of fees.

In considering the fees of the Sub-Adviser, the Independent Board Members also considered the pricing schedule or fees that the Sub-Adviser charges for similar investment management services for other fund sponsors or clients (such as retail and/or institutional managed accounts) as applicable. The Independent Board Members also noted that with respect to sub-advisers unaffiliated with Nuveen, such as the Sub-Adviser, such fees were the result of arm's-length negotiations.

### 3. Profitability of Fund Advisers

In conjunction with its review of fees, the Independent Board Members also considered the profitability of Nuveen for its advisory activities (which incorporated Nuveen's wholly-owned affiliated sub-advisers) and its financial condition. The Independent Board Members reviewed the revenues and expenses of Nuveen's advisory activities for the last two years and the allocation methodology used in preparing the profitability data. The Independent Board Members noted this information supplemented the profitability information requested and received during the year to help keep them apprised of developments affecting profitability (such as changes in fee waivers and expense reimbursement commitments). In this regard, the Independent Board Members noted that they had also appointed an Independent Board Member as a point person to review and keep them apprised of changes to the profitability analysis and/or methodologies during the year. The Independent Board Members considered Nuveen's profitability compared with other fund sponsors prepared by two independent third party service providers as well as comparisons of the revenues, expenses and profit margins of various unaffiliated management firms with similar amounts of assets under management prepared by Nuveen.

In reviewing profitability, the Independent Board Members recognized the subjective nature of determining profitability which may be affected by numerous factors including the allocation of expenses. Further, the Independent Board Members recognized the difficulties in making comparisons as the profitability of other advisers generally is not publicly available and the profitability information that is available for certain advisers or management firms may not be representative of the industry and may be affected by, among other things, the adviser's particular business mix, capital costs, types of funds managed and expense allocations.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Independent Board Members reviewed Nuveen's methodology and assumptions for allocating expenses across product lines to determine profitability. In reviewing profitability, the Independent Board Members recognized Nuveen's investment in its fund business.

Based on its review, the Independent Board Members concluded that Nuveen's level of profitability for its advisory activities was reasonable in light of the services provided. With respect to funds with sub-advisers unaffiliated with Nuveen, such as the Fund, the Independent Board Members also considered the sub-adviser's revenues, expenses (including the basis for allocating expenses) and profitability margins (pre- and post-tax). Based on their review, the Independent Board Members were satisfied that the Sub-Adviser's level of profitability was reasonable in light of the services provided.

In evaluating the reasonableness of the compensation, the Independent Board Members also considered other amounts paid to a Fund Adviser by the Fund as well as any indirect benefits (such as soft dollar arrangements, if any) the Fund Adviser and its affiliates receive, or are expected to receive, that are directly attributable to the management of the Fund, if any. See Section E below for additional information on indirect benefits the Fund Adviser may receive as a result of its relationship with the Fund. Based on their review of the overall fee arrangements of the Fund, the Independent Board Members determined that the advisory fees and expenses of the Fund were reasonable.

Annual Investment  
Management Agreement  
APPROVAL PROCESS (continued)

**D. Economies of Scale and Whether Fee Levels Reflect These Economies of Scale**

With respect to economies of scale, the Independent Board Members recognized the potential benefits resulting from the costs of a fund being spread over a larger asset base. The Independent Board Members therefore considered whether the Fund has appropriately benefited from any economies of scale and whether there is potential realization of any further economies of scale. In considering economies of scale, the Independent Board Members have recognized that economies of scale are difficult to measure and predict with precision, particularly on a fund-by-fund basis. Notwithstanding the foregoing, one method to help ensure the shareholders share in these benefits is to include breakpoints in the advisory fee schedule. Accordingly, the Independent Board Members reviewed and considered the fund-level breakpoints in the advisory fee schedules that reduce advisory fees. In this regard, given that the Fund is a closed-end fund, the Independent Board Members recognized that although the Fund may from time to time make additional share offerings, the growth in its assets will occur primarily through appreciation of the Fund's investment portfolio.

In addition to fund-level advisory fee breakpoints, the Board also considered the Fund's complex-wide fee arrangement. Pursuant to the complex-wide fee arrangement, the fees of the funds in the Nuveen complex, including the Fund, are reduced as the assets in the fund complex reach certain levels. In evaluating the complex-wide fee arrangement, the Independent Board Members recognized that the complex-wide fee schedule was recently revised in 2007 to provide for additional fee savings to shareholders and considered the amended schedule. The Independent Board Members further considered that the complex-wide fee arrangement seeks to provide the benefits of economies of scale to fund shareholders when total fund complex assets increase, even if assets of a particular fund are unchanged or have decreased. The approach reflects the notion that some of Nuveen's costs are attributable to services provided to all its funds in the complex and therefore all funds benefit if these costs are spread over a larger asset base. Based on their review, the Independent Board Members concluded that the breakpoint schedule and complex-wide fee arrangement were acceptable and desirable in providing benefits from economies of scale to shareholders.

**E. Indirect Benefits**

In evaluating fees, the Independent Board Members received and considered information regarding potential fall out or ancillary benefits the respective Fund Adviser or its affiliates may receive as a result of its relationship with the Fund. In this regard, the Independent Board Members considered revenues received by affiliates of NAM for serving as agent at Nuveen's preferred trading desk and for serving as a co-manager in the initial public offering of new closed-end exchange traded funds.

In addition to the above, the Independent Board Members considered whether the Fund Adviser received any benefits from soft dollar arrangements whereby a portion of the commissions paid by the Fund for brokerage may be used to acquire research that may be useful to the Fund Adviser in managing the assets of the Fund and other clients. With respect to NAM, the Independent Board Members noted that NAM does not currently have any soft dollar arrangements; however, to the extent certain bona fide agency transactions that occur on markets that traditionally trade on a principal basis and riskless principal transactions are considered as generating commissions, NAM intends to comply with the applicable safe harbor provisions. The Board also noted that the Sub-Adviser does not participate in soft dollar arrangements.

Based on their review, the Independent Board Members concluded that any indirect benefits received by a Fund Adviser as a result of its relationship with the Fund were reasonable and within acceptable parameters.

**F. Other Considerations**

The Independent Board Members did not identify any single factor discussed previously as all-important or controlling. The Board Members, including the Independent Board Members, unanimously concluded that the terms of the Investment Management Agreement and Sub-Advisory Agreement are fair and reasonable, that the respective Fund Adviser's fees are reasonable in light of the services provided to the Fund and that the Investment Management Agreement and the Sub-Advisory Agreement be renewed.

34

---

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 Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

Your Nuveen Closed-End Fund allows you to conveniently reinvest dividends and/or capital gains 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 tax-free compounding. Just like dividends or distributions in cash, there may be times when income or capital gains taxes may be payable on dividends or 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 month you will receive a statement showing your total dividends and 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. Dividends and distributions received to purchase shares in the open market will normally be invested shortly after the dividend payment date. No interest will be paid on dividends and 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 dividend or 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. Should you withdraw, you can receive a certificate for all whole shares credited to your reinvestment account and cash payment for fractional shares, or cash payment for all reinvestment account shares, less brokerage commissions and a \$2.50 service fee.

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 dividends and/or 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.

36

---

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 ***Market Yield (also known as Dividend Yield or Current Yield):*** Market yield is based on the Fund's current annualized quarterly distribution divided by the Fund's current market price. The Fund's quarterly distributions to its shareholders may be comprised of ordinary income, net realized capital gains and, if at the end of the calendar year the Fund's cumulative net ordinary income and net realized gains are less than the amount of the Fund's distributions, a tax return of capital.
- n ***Net Asset Value (NAV):*** A Fund's NAV per share is calculated by subtracting the liabilities of the Fund from its total assets and then dividing the remainder by the number of shares outstanding. Fund NAVs are calculated at the end of each business day.





**Board of Trustees**

John P. Amboian  
Robert P. Bremner  
Jack B. Evans  
William C. Hunter  
David J. Kundert  
William J. Schneider  
Judith M. Stockdale  
Carole E. Stone  
Terence J. Toth

**Fund Manager**

Nuveen Asset Management  
333 West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Custodian**

State Street Bank & Trust Company  
Boston, MA

**Transfer Agent and  
Shareholder Services**

State Street Bank & Trust Company  
Nuveen Funds  
P.O. Box 43071  
Providence, RI 02940-3071  
(800) 257-8787

**Legal Counsel**

Chapman and Cutler LLP  
Chicago, IL

**Independent Registered  
Public Accounting Firm**

PriceWaterhouseCoopers LLP  
Chicago, IL

The Fund intends to repurchase shares of its own common stock in the future at such times and in such amounts as is deemed advisable. No shares were repurchased during the period covered by this report. Any future repurchases will be reported to shareholders in the next annual or semi-annual report.

Other Useful INFORMATION

**QUARTERLY PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS AND PROXY VOTING INFORMATION**

You may obtain (i) the Fund's quarterly portfolio of investments, (ii) information regarding how the Fund voted proxies relating to portfolio securities held during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, 2008, and (iii) a description of the policies and procedures that the 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 or on Nuveen's website at [www.nuveen.com](http://www.nuveen.com).

You may also obtain this and other Fund information directly from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC may charge a copying fee for this information. 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 at (202) 942-8090 for room hours and operation. You may also request Fund information by sending an e-mail request to [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov) or by writing to the SEC's Public Reference Section at 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20549.

#### CEO Certification Disclosure

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer 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 Securities and Exchange Commission the certification of its Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

---

Nuveen Investments:

**SERVING INVESTORS FOR GENERATIONS**

Since 1898, financial advisors and their clients have relied on Nuveen Investments to provide dependable investment solutions. For the past century, Nuveen Investments has adhered to the belief that the best approach to investing is to apply conservative risk-management principles to help minimize volatility.

Building on this tradition, we today offer a range of high quality equity and fixed-income solutions that are integral to a well-diversified core portfolio. Our clients have come to appreciate this diversity, as well as our continued adherence to proven, long-term investing principles.

We offer many different investing solutions for our clients' different needs.

Nuveen Investments is a global investment management firm that seeks to help secure the long-term goals of institutions and high net worth investors as well as the consultants and financial advisors who serve them. Nuveen Investments markets its growing range of specialized investment solutions under the high-quality brands of HydePark, NWQ, Nuveen, Rittenhouse, Santa Barbara, Symphony and Tradewinds. In total, the Company managed \$152 billion of assets on June 30, 2008.

Find out how we can help you reach your financial goals.

To learn more about the products and services Nuveen Investments offers, talk to your financial advisor, or call us at **(800) 257-8787**. Please read the information provided carefully before you invest.

Be sure to obtain a prospectus, where applicable. Investors should consider the investment objective and policies, risk considerations, charges and expenses of the Fund carefully before investing. The prospectus contains this and other information relevant to an investment in the Fund. For 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](http://www.nuveen.com/cef)**

**Share prices**  
**Fund details**  
**Daily financial news**  
**Investor education**  
**Interactive planning tools**

ESA-I-0608D

---

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable to this filing.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

See Portfolio of Investments in Item 1.

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

Not applicable to this filing.

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

Not applicable to this filing.

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

| Period*                  | (a)<br>TOTAL NUMBER OF<br>SHARES (OR<br>UNITS)<br>PURCHASED | (b)<br>AVERAGE<br>PRICE<br>PAID PER<br>SHARE (OR<br>UNIT) | (c)<br>TOTAL NUMBER OF SHARES<br>(OR UNITS) PURCHASED AS<br>PART OF PUBLICLY<br>ANNOUNCED PLANS OR<br>PROGRAMS | (d)*<br>MAXIMUM NUMBER (OR<br>APPROXIMATE DOLLAR VALUE) OF<br>SHARES (OR UNITS) THAT MAY YET<br>BE PURCHASED UNDER THE PLANS OR<br>PROGRAMS |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| JANUARY 0<br>1-31, 2008  |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| FEBRUARY 0<br>1-29, 2008 |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| MARCH 0<br>1-31, 2008    |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| APRIL 1-30, 0<br>2008    |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| MAY 1-31, 0<br>2008      |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| JUNE 1-30, 0<br>2008     |   | \$0   | 0  | 1,572,500   |
| TOTAL 0                  |   |   |  |   |

\* The registrant's repurchase program was announced November 21, 2007. The registrant's repurchase program authorized the repurchase of 1,600,000 shares. The repurchases made by the registrant pursuant to the program were all made through open-market transactions.

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

## Edgar Filing: Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund - Form N-CSRS

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 to this filing.

(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: September 8, 2008

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: September 8, 2008

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

Date: September 8, 2008

\* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.