

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form N-CSR  
March 06, 2015

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM N-CSR**

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED  
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number 811-22003

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Nuveen Investments  
333 West Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Kevin J. McCarthy

Nuveen Investments

333 West Wacker Drive

Chicago, IL 60606  
(Name and address of agent for service)

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

Date of fiscal year end: December 31

Date of reporting period: December 31, 2014

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.

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

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**

---

Closed-End Funds

Nuveen Investments

**Closed-End Funds**

**Annual Report** December 31, 2014

**JCE**

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

---

**NUVEEN INVESTMENTS ACQUIRED BY TIAA-CREF**

On October 1, 2014, TIAA-CREF completed its previously announced acquisition of Nuveen Investments, Inc., the parent company of your fund's investment adviser, Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC ("NFAL") and the Nuveen affiliates that act as sub-advisers to the majority of the Nuveen Funds. TIAA-CREF is a national financial services organization with approximately \$851 billion in assets under management as of December 31, 2014 and is a leading provider of retirement services in the academic, research, medical and cultural fields. Nuveen is operating as a separate subsidiary within TIAA-CREF's asset management business.

---

**Table**

**of Contents**

Chairman's Letter to Shareholders	4
Portfolio Managers' Comments	5
Share Information	8
Risk Considerations	10
Performance Overview and Holding Summaries	12
Shareholder Meeting Report	14
Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	15
Portfolio of Investments	16
Statement of Assets and Liabilities	23
Statement of Operations	24
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	25
Financial Highlights	26
Notes to Financial Statements	28
Additional Fund Information	37
Glossary of Terms Used in this Report	39
Reinvest Automatically, Easily and Conveniently	40
Board Members & Officers	41

Nuveen Investments



## **Chairman's Letter**

### **to Shareholders**

#### **Dear Shareholders,**

A pattern of divergence has emerged in the past year. Steady and moderate growth in the U.S. economy helped sustain the stock market's bull run another year. U.S. bonds also performed well, amid subdued inflation, interest rates that remained unexpectedly low and concerns about the economic well-being of the rest of the world. The stronger domestic economy enabled the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to gradually reduce its large scale bond purchases, known as quantitative easing (QE), without disruption to the markets, as well as begin to set expectations for a transition into tightening mode.

The story outside the U.S., however, was different. European growth was stagnating and Japan fell into a recession, contributing to the bouts of volatility in their markets. China's economy decelerated and, despite running well above the rate of other major global economies, investors feared it looked slow by China's standards. Compounding these concerns were a surprisingly steep decline in oil prices, the U.S. dollar's rally and an increase in geopolitical tensions, including the Russia-Ukraine crisis and terrorist attacks across the Middle East and Africa, as well as more recently in Europe.

While a backdrop of healthy economic growth in the U.S. and the continuation of accommodative monetary policy (with the central banks of Japan and potentially Europe stepping in where the Fed has left off) bodes well for the markets, the global outlook has become more uncertain. Indeed, volatility is likely to feature more prominently in the investment landscape going forward. Such conditions underscore the importance of professional investment management. Experienced investment teams have weathered the market's ups and downs in the past and emerged with a better understanding of the sensitivities of their asset class and investment style, particularly in times of turbulence. We recognize the importance of maximizing gains, while striving to minimize volatility.

And, the same is true for investors like you. Maintaining an appropriate time horizon, diversification and relying on practiced investment teams are among your best strategies for achieving your long-term investment objectives. Additionally, I encourage you to communicate with your financial consultant if you have questions about your investment in a Nuveen Fund. On behalf of the other members of the Nuveen Fund Board, we look forward to continuing to earn your trust in the months and years ahead.

William J. Schneider  
Chairman of the Board  
February 23, 2015

Nuveen Investments

4

---

## Portfolio Managers'

### Comments

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE)

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

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

*Here the INTECH team members, along with the NAM team discuss economic and market conditions, their management strategies and the performance of the Fund for the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2014.*

### **What factors affected the U.S. economy and the financial markets during the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2014?**

During this reporting period, the U.S. economy continued to expand at a moderate pace. The Federal Reserve (Fed) maintained efforts to bolster growth and promote progress toward its mandates of maximum employment and price stability by holding the benchmark fed funds rate at the record low level of zero to 0.25% that it established in December 2008. At its October 2014 meeting, the Fed announced that it would end its bond-buying stimulus program as of November 1, 2014, after tapering its monthly asset purchases of mortgage-backed and longer-term Treasury securities from the original \$85 billion per month to \$15 billion per month over the course of seven consecutive meetings (December 2013 through September 2014). In making the announcement, the Fed cited substantial improvement in the outlook for the labor market since the inception of the current asset purchase program as well as sufficient underlying strength in the broader economy to support ongoing progress toward maximum employment in a context of price stability. The Fed also reiterated that it would continue to look at a wide range of factors, including labor market conditions, indicators of inflationary pressures and readings on financial developments, in determining future actions. Additionally, the Fed stated that it would likely maintain the current target range for the fed funds rate for a considerable time after the end of the asset purchase program, especially if projected inflation continues to run below the Fed's 2% longer-run goal. However, if economic data shows faster progress toward the Fed's employment and inflation objectives than currently anticipated, the Fed indicated that the first increase in the fed funds rate since 2006 could occur sooner than expected.

In the fourth quarter of 2014, the U.S. economy, as measured by the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), grew at a 2.6% annual rate, compared with 4.6% in the second quarter and 5.0% in the third quarter of 2014. The decline in real GDP growth rate from the third quarter to the fourth quarter primarily reflects an upturn in imports, a downturn in federal government spending, and decline in exports. These were partly offset by an upturn in consumer spending. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 0.8% year-over-year as of December 2014, while the core CPI (which excludes food and energy) increased 1.6% during the same period, below the Fed's unofficial longer term inflation objective of 2.0%. As of December 31, 2014, the national unemployment rate was 5.6%, the lowest level since July 2008, down from the 6.7% reported in December 2013. The housing market continued to post gains, although price growth has shown signs of

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

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

Nuveen Investments

5

---

**Portfolio Managers' Comments** (continued)

deceleration in recent months. The average home price in the S&P/Case-Shiller Index of 20 major metropolitan areas rose 4.7% for the twelve months ended November 2014 (most recent data available at the time this report was prepared).

As investor sentiment and risk aversion fluctuated throughout the reporting period, U.S. equities across the risk spectrum posted generally positive returns supported by solid corporate earnings, positive economic reports and continued accommodative monetary policy. During the first few months of this reporting period, the financial markets were unsettled in the aftermath of widespread uncertainty about the future of the Fed's quantitative easing program. Also contributing to investor concern was Congress's failure to reach agreement on the Fiscal 2014 federal budget, which had triggered sequestration, or automatic spending cuts and a 16-day federal government shutdown in October 2013. As we moved into 2014, investors quickly shook off these issues and the current bull market in the U.S. entered its sixth year. Then, midway through the first calendar quarter, investors grew concerned about the dampening effects of severe winter weather on near-term growth, firmer language from the Fed regarding potential stimulus withdrawal and mounting tensions with Russia over its territorial assertions in Ukraine. The stock market experienced a rather quick and dramatic rotation away from higher growth, higher price/earnings ratio stocks that had performed so well in 2013 and into more defensive, value-oriented stocks. As we moved into the spring and summer months, equity markets again hit new highs as U.S. data improved and policy uncertainty was reduced. Market volatility declined to levels near historical lows prompting some concern from market analysts and policymakers who believed that investors may be growing overly complacent. As conditions improved on the domestic front, however, global growth was called into question as China and the emerging markets slowed, while Europe slipped back into a recession. The U.S. dollar strengthened dramatically, which weighed on the prices of all commodities. Oil prices experienced a dramatic decline from their early June high of approximately \$105/barrel and ended the reporting period at approximately \$65/barrel (source: West Texas Intermediate). The S&P 500® Index ended the reporting period up 13.69%, marking the sixth consecutive year of positive returns for the U.S. equity market.

**What key strategies were used to manage the Fund during this twelve month reporting period ended December 31, 2014?**

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

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

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

INTECH seeks to generate excess returns by harnessing the natural volatility of stock prices to build a potentially more efficient portfolio than the S&P 500<sup>®</sup> Index. INTECH's investment process focuses solely on relative volatility and correlation. Specifically, the process searches for stocks with high relative volatility and low correlation, attempting to increase the potential for trading profits at time of rebalancing. The actual positioning of the portfolio from a sector and stock specific standpoint is a residual of the process, and the rationale for over and underweight positions is a function of the stocks' relative volatility and correlation characteristics in aggregate.

Nuveen Investments

6

---

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

**How did the Fund perform during this twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2014?**

The table in the Performance Overview and Holding Summaries section of this report provides total return performance for the Fund for the one-year, five-year and since inception periods ended December 31, 2014. For the twelve-month reporting period ended December 31, 2014, the Fund's shares at net asset value (NAV) outperformed the JCE Blended Index, but lagged the S&P 500® Index.

Since INTECH uses a purely portfolio-theoretic methodology, the investment process does not specifically select stocks or overweight sectors in response to market conditions or expectations or based on their potential for future performance, but combines securities based on how their stock prices move relative to one another in order to capture a rebalancing premium. Rebalancing requires buying some of a stock after a negative relative return and selling some of a stock after a positive relative return. This produces a buy low or sell high trading profit, on average, as stocks move up and down relative to the benchmark.

The U.S. equity market as measured by the S&P 500® Index posted a positive return of 13.69% for the year, marking the sixth consecutive year of positive returns for the U.S. equity market. Relative volatility, which refers to stocks moving relative one another, was relatively stable during 2014, increasing slightly from historically low levels in the fourth quarter. In addition, an overall increase in market diversity during the reporting period reflected a change in the distribution of capital in which smaller stocks outperformed larger stocks, on average, which benefited the Fund's portfolio. Due to their volatility and correlation characteristics, the Fund tends to overweight the smaller stocks within the investment universe as they provide more relative volatility capture potential. The Fund's underweight to mega cap stocks and overweight to smaller cap stocks had an overall positive impact on the portfolio's relative performance during the reporting period.

From a sector perspective, an overweight allocation to the utilities sector, which was the best performing sector, benefited the Fund. The Fund's active positioning within the consumer staples sector also contributed to the positive relative performance. Additionally, an overweight to some strong performing industrials, including Southwest Airlines Co. and Northrop Grumman Corporation, as well as consumer staples, including The Kroger Company and Constellation Brands, Inc. were among the top contributors during the reporting period.

As mentioned previously, the Fund continued to write call options on a basket of stocks and on stock indexes, while investing in a portfolio of equities, to enhance returns while foregoing some upside potential of its equity portfolio. The notional value underlying these options averaged 40% of the Fund's assets. Since the performance of the underlying equities was very positive during this period, the call options reduced performance, as would be expected for the strategy in periods of strong equity performance.

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

## Share

### Information

#### **DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

The following information regarding the Fund's distributions is current as of December 31, 2014. The Fund's distribution level may 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 this program is to provide shareholders with relatively consistent and predictable cash flow by systematically converting the Fund's 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, the shortfall 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 information regarding the Fund's distributions and total return performance for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014. This information is intended to help you better understand whether the Fund's returns for the specified time period were sufficient to meet its distributions.

<b>As of December 31, 2014</b>	<b>JCE</b>
Inception date	3/27/07
Fiscal year (calendar year) ended December 31, 2014:	
Per share distribution:	
From net investment income	\$ 0.16
From long-term capital gains	2.01
From short-term capital gains	0.34
Return of capital	0.00
Total per share distribution	\$ 2.51
Current distribution rate*	6.94%
Average annual total returns:	
1-Year on NAV	12.08%
5-Year on NAV	15.87%
Since inception on NAV	8.36%

\* 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 fiscal 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.

## SHARE REPURCHASES

During August 2014, the Fund's Board of Trustees reauthorized an open-market share repurchase program, allowing the Fund to repurchase an aggregate of up to approximately 10% of its outstanding shares.

As of December 31, 2014, and since the inception of the Fund's repurchase program, the Fund has cumulatively repurchased and retired shares as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>JCE</b>
Shares Cumulatively Repurchased and Retired	449,800
Shares Authorized for Repurchase	1,600,000

During the current reporting period, the Fund did not repurchase any of its outstanding shares.

## OTHER SHARE INFORMATION

As of December 31, 2014, and during the current reporting period, the Fund's share price was trading at a premium/(discount) to its NAV as shown in the accompanying table.

	<b>JCE</b>
NAV	\$ 17.49
Share Price	\$ 17.47
Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(0.11)%
12-Month Average Premium/(Discount) to NAV	(3.64)%

Nuveen Investments



## Risk

### Considerations

Fund shares are not guaranteed or endorsed by any bank or other insured depository institution, and are not federally insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Shares of closed-end funds are subject to investment risks, including the possible loss of principal invested. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Fund common shares are subject to a variety of risks, including:

**Investment, Market and Price Risk.** An investment in common shares is subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of the entire principal amount that you invest. Your investment in common shares represents an indirect investment in the corporate securities owned by the Fund, which generally trade in the over-the-counter markets. Shares of closed-end investment companies like the Fund frequently trade at a discount to their NAV. Your common shares at any point in time may be worth less than your original investment, even after taking into account the reinvestment of Fund dividends and distributions.

**Tax Risk.** The tax treatment of Fund distributions may be affected by new IRS interpretations of the Internal Revenue Code and future changes in tax laws and regulations. This is particularly true for funds employing a managed distribution program.

**Common Stock Risk.** Common stock returns often have experienced significant volatility.

**Call Option Risk.** The value of call options sold (written) by the Fund will fluctuate. The Fund may not participate in any appreciation of its equity portfolio as fully as it would if the Fund did not sell call options. In addition, the Fund will continue to bear the risk of declines in the value of the equity portfolio.

**Derivatives Strategy Risk.** Derivative securities, such as calls, puts, warrants, swaps and forwards, carry risks different from, and possibly greater than, the risks associated with the underlying investments.

**Investment Process Risk.** INTECH uses a proprietary mathematical process that strives to identify common stocks with high volatility relative to the index and low correlation to one another. The use of this process may not produce the expected results.

**Reinvestment Risk.** If market interest rates decline, income earned from the Fund's portfolio may be reinvested at rates below that of the original bond that generated the income.



THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Nuveen Investments

11

---

**JCE**

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**

**Performance Overview and Holding Summaries as of December 31, 2014**

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

**Average Annual Total Returns as of December 31, 2014**

	<b>Average Annual</b>		<b>Since</b>
	<b>1-Year</b>	<b>5-Year</b>	<b>Inception<sup>1</sup></b>
JCE at NAV	12.08%	15.87%	8.36%
JCE at Share Price	18.31%	18.17%	8.51%
JCE Blended Index	9.62%	11.32%	5.61%
S&P 500® Index	13.69%	15.45%	7.11%

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

**Share Price Performance Weekly Closing Price**

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

### **Fund Allocation**

**(% of net assets)**

Common Stocks	99.7%
Short-Term Investments	1.4%
Other Assets Less Liabilities	(1.1)%
Net Assets	100%

### **Top Five Issuers**

**(% of total investments)<sup>2</sup>**

Anthem Inc.	2.5%
LyondellBasell Industries NV	2.3%
Lockheed Martin Corporation	2.0%
Southwest Airlines Co.	1.9%
Facebook Inc.	1.9%

### **Portfolio Composition**

**(% of total investments)<sup>2</sup>**

Health Care Providers & Services	7.9%
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	5.2%
Road & Rail	5.1%
Chemicals	4.9%
Pharmaceuticals	4.8%
Real Estate Investment Trust	4.7%
Aerospace & Defense	3.4%
Electric Utilities	3.1%
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	3.1%
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	3.1%
Specialty Retail	3.1%
Computers & Peripherals	2.8%
Food & Staples Retailing	2.7%
Tobacco	2.5%
Textiles Apparel & Luxury Goods	2.4%
Capital Markets	2.3%
Consumer Finance	2.3%
Diversified Financial Services	2.2%
Food Products	2.2%
Beverages	2.1%
Commercial Services & Supplies	2.1%
Health Care Equipment & Supplies	2.0%
Multi-Utilities	2.0%
Airlines	1.9%

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

Internet Software & Services	1.9%
Other	18.8%
Short-Term Investments	1.4%
Total	100%

1 Since inception returns are from 3/27/07.

2 Excluding investments in derivatives.

Nuveen Investments

13

---



**Shareholder****Meeting Report**

The annual meeting of shareholders was held in the offices of Nuveen Investments on August 5, 2014 for JCE; at this meeting the shareholders were asked to vote to approve a new investment management agreement, to approve new sub-advisory agreements and to elect Board Members.

	<b>JCE</b> Common Shares
<b>To approve a new investment management agreement between each Fund and Nuveen Advisors, LLC.</b>	
For	7,089,765
Against	194,630
Abstain	188,514
Broker Non-Votes	2,097,542
Total	9,570,451
<b>To approve a new sub-advisory agreement between Nuveen Fund Advisors and the Fund's sub-advisor(s) as follows:</b>	
<b>a. Nuveen Fund Advisors and Nuveen Asset Management, LLC.</b>	
For	7,036,166
Against	232,626
Abstain	204,117
Broker Non-Votes	2,097,542
Total	9,570,451
<b>g. Nuveen Fund Advisors and INTECH Investment Management LLC.</b>	
For	7,036,296
Against	230,132
Abstain	206,481
Broker Non-Votes	2,097,542
Total	9,570,451
<b>Approval of the Board Members was reached as follows:</b>	
<b>William Adams IV</b>	
For	9,240,628
Withhold	329,823
Total	9,570,451
<b>David J. Kundert</b>	
For	9,220,677
Withhold	349,774
Total	9,570,451
<b>John K. Nelson</b>	
For	9,242,039
Withhold	328,412
Total	9,570,451
<b>Terence J. Toth</b>	
For	9,241,467
Withhold	328,984
Total	9,570,451



**Report of**

**Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

**To the Board of Trustees and Shareholders of  
Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund:**

In our opinion, the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the portfolio of investments, and the related statements of operations and of changes in net assets and the financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Fund") at December 31, 2014, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements and financial highlights (hereafter referred to as "financial statements") are the responsibility of the Fund's management; our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits, which included confirmation of securities at December 31, 2014 by correspondence with the custodian and brokers, provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chicago, IL  
February 27, 2015

Nuveen Investments  
15

---



JCE

## Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

## Portfolio of Investments December 31, 2014

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS 99.7%</b>	
	<b>COMMON STOCKS 99.7%</b>	
	<b>Aerospace &amp; Defense 3.4%</b>	
29,000	Lockheed Martin Corporation	\$ 5,584,530
7,000	Northrop Grumman Corporation	1,031,730
27,300	Raytheon Company	2,953,041
	Total Aerospace & Defense	9,569,301
	<b>Air Freight &amp; Logistics 0.7%</b>	
27,900	C.H. Robinson Worldwide, Inc.	2,089,431
	<b>Airlines 1.9%</b>	
126,800	Southwest Airlines Co.	5,366,176
	<b>Banks 1.3%</b>	
16,200	BB&T Corporation	630,018
11,600	M&T Bank Corporation	1,457,192
5,500	U.S. Bancorp	247,225
23,550	Wells Fargo & Company	1,291,011
	Total Banks	3,625,446
	<b>Beverages 2.1%</b>	
1,200	Coca-Cola Company	50,664
300	Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A, (2)	29,451
38,700	Dr. Pepper Snapple Group	2,774,016
24,200	Molson Coors Brewing Company, Class B	1,803,384
13,400	PepsiCo, Inc.	1,267,104
	Total Beverages	5,924,619
	<b>Biotechnology 1.7%</b>	
47,200	Gilead Sciences, Inc., (2)	4,449,072
1,100	Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (2)	451,275
	Total Biotechnology	4,900,347
	<b>Capital Markets 2.3%</b>	
23,500	Bank New York Mellon	953,395
9,500	Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.	1,841,385
1,900	Invesco LTD	75,088
25,400	Morgan Stanley	985,520
33,000	Northern Trust Corporation	2,224,200
5,600	State Street Corporation	439,600
	Total Capital Markets	6,519,188
	<b>Chemicals 5.0%</b>	
3,700	Air Products & Chemicals Inc.	533,651
10,000	Airgas, Inc.	1,151,800
4,600	Dow Chemical Company	209,806
17,600	Ecolab Inc.	1,839,552

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

7,000	International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.	709,520
81,900	LyondellBasell Industries NV	6,502,041
22,100	Sigma-Aldrich Corporation	3,033,667
	Total Chemicals	13,980,037

Nuveen Investments

16

---

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>Commercial Services &amp; Supplies 2.2%</b>	
11,000	ADT Corporation	\$ 398,530
19,300	Cintas Corporation	1,513,892
49,300	Republic Services, Inc.	1,984,325
41,500	Waste Management, Inc.	2,129,780
	Total Commercial Services & Supplies	6,026,527
	<b>Communications Equipment 0.3%</b>	
7,200	F5 Networks, Inc., (2)	939,348
	<b>Computers &amp; Peripherals 2.8%</b>	
2,000	Apple, Inc.	220,760
35,000	EMC Corporation	1,040,900
43,800	NetApp, Inc.	1,815,510
28,800	SanDisk Corporation	2,821,824
17,300	Western Digital Corporation	1,915,110
	Total Computers & Peripherals	7,814,104
	<b>Consumer Finance 2.3%</b>	
29,500	Capital One Financial Corporation	2,435,225
55,700	Discover Financial Services	3,647,793
16,800	Navient Corporation	363,048
	Total Consumer Finance	6,446,066
	<b>Containers &amp; Packaging 0.6%</b>	
22,700	Ball Corporation	1,547,459
	<b>Diversified Financial Services 2.2%</b>	
29,200	CME Group, Inc.	2,588,580
16,400	McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.	1,459,272
11,000	Moody's Corporation	1,053,910
23,100	NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.	1,107,876
	Total Diversified Financial Services	6,209,638
	<b>Diversified Telecommunication Services 1.6%</b>	
85,400	CenturyLink Inc.	3,380,132
142,700	Windstream Holdings Inc.	1,175,848
	Total Diversified Telecommunication Services	4,555,980
	<b>Electric Utilities 3.1%</b>	
3,200	American Electric Power Company, Inc.	194,304
5,056	Duke Energy Corporation	422,378
13,600	Edison International	890,528
35,400	Entergy Corporation	3,096,792
16,500	Exelon Corporation	611,820
4,000	NextEra Energy Inc.	425,160
57,400	Pepco Holdings, Inc.	1,545,782
10,700	PPL Corporation	388,731
21,100	Southern Company	1,036,221
2,100	Xcel Energy, Inc.	75,432
	Total Electric Utilities	8,687,148
	<b>Energy Equipment &amp; Services 1.2%</b>	
52,400	National-Oilwell Varco Inc.	3,433,772
	<b>Food &amp; Staples Retailing 2.7%</b>	
400	Costco Wholesale Corporation	56,700

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

33,400	CVS Caremark Corporation	3,216,754
41,000	Kroger Co.	2,632,610
47,200	Safeway Inc.	1,657,664
	Total Food & Staples Retailing	7,563,728

Nuveen Investments

**JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**  
**Portfolio of Investments (continued) December 31, 2014**

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>Food Products 2.3%</b>	
33,900	Archer-Daniels-Midland Company	\$ 1,762,800
72,300	ConAgra Foods, Inc.	2,623,044
4,400	Hormel Foods Corporation	229,240
700	Keurig Green Mountain Inc.	92,676
16,400	Mead Johnson Nutrition Company, Class A Shares	1,648,856
	<b>Total Food Products</b>	<b>6,356,616</b>
	<b>Gas Utilities 0.1%</b>	
5,900	AGL Resources Inc.	321,609
	<b>Health Care Equipment &amp; Supplies 2.0%</b>	
1,200	Becton, Dickinson and Company	166,992
42,100	CareFusion Corporation, (2)	2,498,214
21,900	Edwards Lifesciences Corporation, (2)	2,789,622
200	Intuitive Surgical, Inc., (2)	105,788
	<b>Total Health Care Equipment &amp; Supplies</b>	<b>5,560,616</b>
	<b>Health Care Providers &amp; Services 8.0%</b>	
20,959	Aetna Inc.	1,861,788
40,600	AmerisourceBergen Corporation	3,660,496
55,900	Anthem Inc., (4)	7,024,953
34,800	Cardinal Health, Inc.	2,809,404
17,300	Davita Inc., (2)	1,310,302
200	Humana Inc.	28,726
10,400	McKesson HBOC Inc.	2,158,832
4,700	Quest Diagnostics Incorporated	315,182
22,300	Tenet Healthcare Corporation, (2)	1,129,941
18,300	Universal Health Services, Inc., Class B	2,036,058
	<b>Total Health Care Providers &amp; Services</b>	<b>22,335,682</b>
	<b>Health Care Technology 0.1%</b>	
3,500	Cerner Corporation, (2)	226,310
	<b>Hotels, Restaurants &amp; Leisure 3.1%</b>	
5,600	Chipotle Mexican Grill, (2)	3,833,256
44,500	Marriott International, Inc., Class A	3,472,335
17,000	Wyndham Worldwide Corporation	1,457,920
	<b>Total Hotels, Restaurants &amp; Leisure</b>	<b>8,763,511</b>
	<b>Household Durables 0.6%</b>	
800	Leggett and Platt Inc.	34,088
43,900	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.	1,672,151
	<b>Total Household Durables</b>	<b>1,706,239</b>
	<b>Household Products 0.0%</b>	
1,200	Clorox Company	125,052
	<b>Insurance 1.6%</b>	
6,100	Allstate Corporation	428,525
11,800	AON PLC	1,118,994
16,700	Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	955,908

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

22,800	Principal Financial Group, Inc.	1,184,232
6,300	Travelers Companies, Inc.	666,855
3,200	XL Capital Ltd, Class A	109,984
	Total Insurance	4,464,498
	<b>Internet &amp; Catalog Retail 1.0%</b>	
8,200	NetFlix.com Inc., (2)	2,801,202

Nuveen Investments

18

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>Internet Software &amp; Services 1.9%</b>	
68,400	Facebook Inc., Class A Shares, (2)	\$5,336,568
600	VeriSign, Inc., (2)	34,200
	Total Internet Software & Services	5,370,768
	<b>IT Services 1.0%</b>	
1,400	Automatic Data Processing, Inc.	116,718
3,700	Fidelity National Information Services	230,140
2,600	Paychex, Inc.	120,042
161,700	Xerox Corporation	2,241,162
	Total IT Services	2,708,062
	<b>Leisure Equipment &amp; Products 0.0%</b>	
1,600	Hasbro, Inc.	87,984
	<b>Life Sciences Tools &amp; Services 0.0%</b>	
300	Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.	37,587
	<b>Media 1.8%</b>	
5,600	Cablevision Systems Corporation	115,584
8,700	DirecTV, (2)	754,290
14,100	Time Warner Cable, Class A	2,144,046
8,900	Time Warner Inc.	760,238
12,700	Walt Disney Company	1,196,213
	Total Media	4,970,371
	<b>Metals &amp; Mining 1.6%</b>	
183,000	Alcoa Inc.	2,889,570
78,000	Newmont Mining Corporation	1,474,200
	Total Metals & Mining	4,363,770
	<b>Multiline Retail 1.3%</b>	
31,600	Kohl's Corporation	1,928,864
3,600	Macy's, Inc.	236,700
1,000	Nordstrom, Inc.	79,390
19,100	Target Corporation	1,449,881
	Total Multiline Retail	3,694,835
	<b>Multi-Utilities 2.0%</b>	
7,100	CMS Energy Corporation	246,725
10,200	Consolidated Edison, Inc.	673,302
2,200	DTE Energy Company	190,014
2,700	Integrus Energy Group, Inc.	210,195
50,600	NiSource Inc.	2,146,452
19,000	Sempra Energy	2,115,840
6,800	TECO Energy, Inc.	139,332
	Total Multi-Utilities	5,721,860
	<b>Oil, Gas &amp; Consumable Fuels 3.1%</b>	
400	Cimarex Energy Company	42,400
15,100	ConocoPhillips	1,042,806
28,300	Hess Corporation	2,089,106
39,300	Marathon Oil Corporation	1,111,797
16,300	Phillips 66	1,168,710
12,500	Spectra Energy Corporation	453,750
63,800	Williams Companies, Inc.	2,867,172
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	8,775,741



**JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**  
**Portfolio of Investments (continued) December 31, 2014**

Shares	Description (1)	Value
<b>Pharmaceuticals 4.9%</b>		
16,755	Actavis Inc., (2)	\$ 4,312,905
3,700	Allergan, Inc.	786,583
22,900	Eli Lilly and Company	1,579,871
23,100	Hospira Inc.	1,414,875
21,500	Mallinckrodt PLC, (2)	2,129,145
80,600	Zoetis Incorporated	3,468,218
	<b>Total Pharmaceuticals</b>	<b>13,691,597</b>
<b>Professional Services 0.5%</b>		
3,300	Dun and Bradstreet Inc.	399,168
3,800	Equifax Inc.	307,306
7,800	Nielsen Holdings BV	348,894
4,800	Robert Half International Inc.	280,224
	<b>Total Professional Services</b>	<b>1,335,592</b>
<b>Real Estate Investment Trust 4.7%</b>		
20,600	American Tower Corporation, REIT	2,036,310
	Apartment Investment & Management	
28,800	Company, Class A	1,069,920
15,100	AvalonBay Communities, Inc.	2,467,189
1,600	Boston Properties, Inc.	205,904
18,200	Crown Castle International Corporation	1,432,340
41,500	Equity Residential	2,981,360
8,100	Essex Property Trust Inc.	1,673,460
16,400	Host Hotels & Resorts Inc.	389,828
1,700	Macerich Company	141,797
4,900	Vornado Realty Trust	576,779
6,700	Weyerhaeuser Company	240,463
	<b>Total Real Estate Investment Trust</b>	<b>13,215,350</b>
<b>Road &amp; Rail 5.2%</b>		
87,500	CSX Corporation	3,170,125
22,000	Kansas City Southern Industries	2,684,660
42,100	Norfolk Southern Corporation	4,614,581
33,700	Union Pacific Corporation	4,014,681
	<b>Total Road &amp; Rail</b>	<b>14,484,047</b>
<b>Semiconductors &amp; Semiconductor Equipment 5.3%</b>		
26,500	Avago Technologies Limited	2,665,635
74,600	Broadcom Corporation, Class A	3,232,418
38,000	Intel Corporation	1,379,020
26,600	KLA-Tencor Corporation	1,870,512
24,800	Lam Research Corporation	1,967,632
105,100	Micron Technology, Inc., (2)	3,679,551
	<b>Total Semiconductors &amp; Semiconductor</b>	
	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>14,794,768</b>
<b>Software 1.5%</b>		
26,800	Citrix Systems, (2)	1,709,840
10,100	Intuit, Inc.	931,119

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

4,500	Red Hat, Inc., (2)	311,130
44,600	Symantec Corporation	1,144,213
	<b>Total Software</b>	<b>4,096,302</b>
	<b>Specialty Retail 3.1%</b>	
51,200	Best Buy Co., Inc.	1,995,776
1,200	GameStop Corporation	40,560
29,000	Home Depot, Inc.	3,044,130
29,400	L Brands Inc.	2,544,570
1,600	O'Reilly Automotive Inc., (2)	308,192
13,400	Staples, Inc.	242,808
14,300	Urban Outfitters, Inc., (2)	502,359
	<b>Total Specialty Retail</b>	<b>8,678,395</b>

Nuveen Investments

20

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	<b>Textiles Apparel &amp; Luxury Goods 2.5%</b>	
8,100	Ralph Lauren Corporation	\$ 1,499,796
27,100	Under Armour, Inc., (2)	1,840,090
48,100	VF Corporation	3,602,690
	<b>Total Textiles Apparel &amp; Luxury Goods</b>	<b>6,942,576</b>
	<b>Thriffs &amp; Mortgage Finance 0.4%</b>	
45,900	Hudson City Bancorp, Inc.	464,508
47,800	People's United Financial, Inc.	725,604
	<b>Total Thriffs &amp; Mortgage Finance</b>	<b>1,190,112</b>
	<b>Tobacco 2.6%</b>	
78,900	Altria Group, Inc.	3,887,403
53,000	Lorillard Inc.	3,335,820
	<b>Total Tobacco</b>	<b>7,223,223</b>
	<b>Trading Companies &amp; Distributors 0.1%</b>	
1,900	United Rentals Inc., (2)	193,819
	<b>Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$244,887,434)</b>	<b>279,436,409</b>

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon	Maturity	Ratings (3)	Value
	<b>SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 1.4%</b>				
	<b>Repurchase Agreements 0.5%</b>				
\$ 1,479	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation, dated 12/31/14, repurchase price \$1,478,585, collateralized by \$1,255,000 U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.750%, due 11/15/43, value \$1,512,275	0.000%	1/02/15	N/A	\$ 1,478,585
	<b>U.S. Government and Agency Obligations 0.9%</b>				
2,500	U.S. Treasury Bills, (4)	0.000%	1/15/15	AAA	2,499,978
\$ 3,979	<b>Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$3,978,038)</b>				<b>3,978,563</b>
	<b>Total Investments (cost \$248,865,472) 101.1%</b>				<b>283,414,972</b>
	<b>Other Assets Less Liabilities (1.1)% (5)</b>				<b>(3,153,599)</b>
	<b>Net Assets 100%</b>				<b>\$280,261,373</b>

Investments in Derivatives as of December 31, 2014

#### Options Written outstanding:

Number of Contracts	Description	Counterparty	Notional Amount	Expiration Date	Strike Price	Value (5)
(238,471)	Custom Basket 1*	Deutsche Bank	(23,847,100)(6)	1/20/15	103.0000	\$ (58,497)
(198,103)		Citigroup	(19,810,300)(6)	1/12/15	103.0000	(88,017)

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

	Custom Basket 4**						
	RUSSELL						
(125)	2000® Index	UBS	(14,875,000)(7)	1/17/15	1,190.0000		(350,625)
(150)	S&P Midcap 400® Index	Deutsche Bank	(22,515,000)(7)	1/23/15	1501.0000		(26,176)
(140)	S&P Midcap 400® Index	HSBC	(20,965,560)(7)	1/02/15	1,497.5400		
(100)	S&P Midcap 400® Index	Deutsche Bank	(15,192,008)(7)	1/30/15	1,519.2008		(17,752)
(437,089)	Total Options Written (premiums received \$700,107)		\$ (117,204,968)				\$ (541,067)

Nuveen Investments  
21

**JCE Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**  
**Portfolio of Investments (continued) December 31, 2014**

\* The following table represents the individual common stock holdings comprising the Custom Basket 1 Options Written as of December 31, 2014.

Shares	Description	Value
20,000	Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Sponsored ADR	\$ (5,360)
10,000	Baidu Inc., Sponsored ADR	(5,688)
25,000	Bitauto Holdings Ltd., ADR	(4,541)
50,000	Consumer Discretionary Select Sector SPDR® Fund	(8,704)
80,000	Consumer Staples Select Sector SPDR® Fund	(9,620)
9,000	Equinix, Inc.	(5,038)
15,000	Keurig Green Mountain Inc.	(5,063)
25,000	Incyte Corporation	(4,725)
20,000	NetEase, Inc., ADR	(5,020)
95,000	Vipshop Holdings Ltd., ADR	(4,738)
		\$ (58,497)

\*\* The following table represents the individual common stock holdings comprising the Custom Basket 4 Options Written as of December 31, 2014.

Shares	Description	Value
20,000	Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Sponsored ADR	\$ (9,231)
10,000	Baidu Inc., Sponsored ADR	(10,002)
25,000	Bitauto Holdings Ltd., ADR	(7,763)
25,000	Check Point Software Tech.	(8,580)
9,000	Equinix, Inc.	(9,186)
25,000	Incyte Corporation	(8,553)
15,000	Keurig Green Mountain Inc.	(9,213)
20,000	NetEase Inc., ADR	(8,580)
90,000	Noah Holdings Ltd., Sponsored ADR	(8,193)
95,000	Vipshop Holdings Ltd., ADR	(8,716)
		\$ (88,017)

**Futures Contracts outstanding:**

Description	Contract Position	Number of Contracts	Contract Expiration	Notional Value	Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation)
S&P 500 E-Mini	Long	60	3/15	\$6,157,200	\$ 84,721

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

(1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets.

(2) Non-income producing; issuer has not declared a dividend within the past twelve months.

(3) Ratings (not covered by the report of independent registered public accounting firm): Using the highest of Standard & Poor's Group ("Standard & Poor's"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch") rating. Ratings below BBB by Standard & Poor's, Baa by Moody's or BBB by Fitch are considered to be below investment grade. Holdings designated N/R are not rated by any of these national rating agencies.

(4) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralize the net payment obligations for investments in derivatives.

(5) Other Assets Less Liabilities includes the Value of certain derivative instruments as listed within Investments in Derivatives as of the end of the reporting period.

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

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

ADR American Depositary Receipt.

REIT Real Estate Investment Trust.

N/A Not applicable.

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*



**Statement of****Assets and Liabilities December 31, 2014****Assets**

Long-term investments, at value (cost \$244,887,434)	\$279,436,409
Short-term investments, at value (cost \$3,978,038)	3,978,563
Receivable for dividends	434,329
Other assets	17,747
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>283,867,048</b>

**Liabilities**

Cash overdraft	2,630,159
Options written, at value (premiums received \$700,107)	541,067
Payable for variation margin on futures contracts	72,900
Accrued expenses:	
Management fees	226,367
Trustees fees	17,936
Other	117,246
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>3,605,675</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$280,261,373</b>
Shares outstanding	16,021,686
Net asset value ("NAV") per share outstanding	\$ 17.49

**Net assets consist of:**

Shares, \$0.01 par value per share	\$ 160,217
Paid-in surplus	206,559,901
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income	(16,000)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	38,763,994
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	34,793,261
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$280,261,373</b>
Authorized shares	Unlimited

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Statement of****Operations Year Ended December 31, 2014****Investment Income**

Dividends (net of dividend tax withheld of \$3,644)	\$ 5,532,694
Interest	829
Total investment income	5,533,523

**Expenses**

Management fees	2,671,039
Shareholder servicing agent fees and expenses	284
Custodian fees and expenses	96,325
Trustees fees and expenses	9,467
Professional fees	43,258
Shareholder reporting expenses	57,037
Stock exchange listing fees	8,826
Investor relations expenses	58,437
Other expenses	56,900
Total expenses	3,001,573
Net investment income (loss)	2,531,950

**Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss)**

Net realized gain (loss) from:	
Investments and foreign currency	75,009,471
Futures contracts	841,860
Options written	(5,486,168)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:	
Investments and foreign currency	(39,899,084)
Futures contracts	(119,099)
Options written	650,895
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	30,997,875
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	\$ 33,529,825

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*

**Statement of****Changes in Net Assets**

	<b>Year Ended 12/31/14</b>	<b>Year Ended 12/31/13</b>
<b>Operations</b>		
Net investment income (loss)	\$ 2,531,950	\$ 2,059,698
Net realized gain (loss) from:		
Investments and foreign currency	75,009,471	38,243,627
Futures contracts	841,860	1,107,360
Options written	(5,486,168)	(3,510,530)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of:		
Investments and foreign currency	(39,899,084)	36,124,998
Futures contracts	(119,099)	226,800
Options written	650,895	(560,891)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets from operations	33,529,825	73,691,062
<b>Distributions to Shareholders</b>		
From net investment income	(2,521,799)	(2,022,294)
From accumulated net realized gains	(37,718,268)	(21,135,451)
Decrease in net assets from distributions to shareholders	(40,240,067)	(23,157,745)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets	(6,710,242)	50,533,317
Net assets at the beginning of period	286,971,615	236,438,298
Net assets at the end of period	\$280,261,373	\$286,971,615
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income at the end of period	\$ (16,000)	\$ (15,417)

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*



**Financial**

**Highlights**

Selected data for a share outstanding throughout each period:

Beginning NAV	Investment Operations			Less Distributions From Accumulated			Discount from Shares Repurchased and Offering Costs			Total Returns			
	Net Realized/Unrealized Investment Income (Loss)	Net Realized Gain (Loss)	Total	From Net Investment Income	Net Realized Gains	Return of Capital	Repurchased	Offering	Ending NAV	Ending Market Value	Based on NAV(b)	Based on Market Value(b)	
Year Ended 12/31:													
2017	17.91	\$0.16	\$1.93	\$2.09	\$(0.16)	\$(2.35)	\$	\$(2.51)	\$	\$17.49	\$17.47	12.08%	18.31%
2013	3.76	0.13	4.47	4.60	(0.13)	(1.32)		(1.45)		17.91	16.98	31.97	39.08
2012	2.88	0.17	1.79	1.96	(1.08)			(1.08)		14.76	13.35	14.28	15.81
2014	0.05	0.10	0.81	0.91	(1.08)			(1.08)	*	13.88	12.47	6.70	3.11
2010	0.18	0.10	1.87	1.97	(0.92)		(0.18)	(1.10)	*	14.05	13.12	15.82	17.25

Nuveen Investments  
26

	<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data</b>			<b>Portfolio Turnover Rate(c)</b>
	<b>Ratios to Average Net Assets</b>			
<b>Ending Net Assets (000)</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>Net Investment Income (Loss)</b>		
Year Ended 12/31:				
2014	\$ 280,261	1.03%	0.87%	111%
2013	286,972	1.04	0.77	65
2012	236,438	1.05	1.14	77
2011	222,461	1.05	0.69	67
2010	225,187	1.11	0.73	131

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

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

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

\* Rounds to less than \$0.01 per share.

*See accompanying notes to financial statements.*



## Notes to

### Financial Statements

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

##### General Information

###### *Fund Information*

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

###### *Investment Adviser*

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

###### *Change in Control*

On October 1, 2014, TIAA-CREF, a national financial services organization, completed its previously announced acquisition of Nuveen, the parent company of the Adviser.

Because the consummation of the acquisition resulted in the "assignment" (as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940) and automatic termination of the Fund's investment management agreements and investment sub-advisory agreements, Fund shareholders were asked to approve new investment management agreements with the Adviser and a new investment sub-advisory agreements with the Fund's Sub-Advisers. These new agreements were approved by shareholders of the Fund, and went into effect during the current fiscal period.

###### *Investment Objective and Principal Investment Strategies*

The Fund's investment objective is to provide an attractive level of total return, primarily through long-term capital appreciation and secondarily through income and gains. The Fund will invest in a portfolio of common stocks selected from among the 500 stocks comprising the S&P 500® Index, using a proprietary mathematical process designed by INTECH to select large cap, core equity securities and will also employ innovative risk reduction techniques. Typically, the Fund's equity portfolio will hold 150-450 stocks included in the S&P 500® Index. The Fund will also employ an option strategy that seeks to enhance the Fund's risk-adjusted performance over time through a meaningful reduction in the volatility of the Fund's returns relative to the returns of the S&P 500® Index (the "Option Strategy"). The Fund expects to write (sell) call options primarily on custom baskets of stocks that seek to track the return of the S&P 500® Index within parameters determined by NAM. A custom basket call option is an option whose value is linked to the

market value of a portfolio of underlying stocks. In designing the custom basket call options, NAM will seek to minimize the difference between the returns of the stocks underlying the custom basket versus the S&P 500® Index. The Fund may also write call options on stock indexes or exchange-traded funds (commonly referred to as "ETFs"), when NAM believes such techniques are likely to be more efficient or effective than writing custom basket call options. The Fund normally will hold a small number of written custom basket call option positions with expirations generally of 60 days or less. The Fund expects that most call options in the Option Strategy will be slightly "out-of-the-money" (i.e., the exercise price is above the current level of the cash value of the stocks underlying the custom basket call options) at the time they are written. By employing custom basket call options primarily (rather than options on indexes), NAM expects that it will be better able to limit the overlap between the underlying common stocks included in each custom basket and the Fund's portfolio of common stocks, which in turn helps enable the Fund to avoid tax straddles, which would potentially have negative tax implications and require the Fund to bear substantially greater accounting and administrative costs.

### **Significant Accounting Policies**

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

Nuveen Investments

28

---

### *Investment Transactions*

Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis. Realized gains and losses from investment transactions are determined on the specific identification method, which is the same basis used for federal income tax purposes.

### *Investment Income*

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

### *Professional Fees*

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

### *Dividends and Distributions to Shareholders*

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

The Fund makes quarterly cash distributions to shareholders of a stated dollar amount per share. Subject to approval and oversight by the Fund's Board of Trustees (the "Board"), the Fund seeks to maintain a stable distribution level designed to deliver the long-term return potential of the Fund's investment strategy through regular quarterly distributions (a "Managed Distribution Program"). Total distributions during a calendar year generally will be made from the Fund's net investment income, net realized capital gains and net unrealized capital gains in the Fund's portfolio, if any. The portion of distributions paid attributed to net unrealized gains, if any, is distributed from the Fund's assets and is treated by shareholders as a non-taxable distribution ("Return of Capital") for tax purposes. In the event that total distributions during a calendar year exceed the Fund's total return on net asset value ("NAV"), the difference will reduce NAV per share. If the Fund's total return on NAV exceeds total distributions during a calendar year, the excess will be reflected as an increase in NAV per share. The final determination of the source and character of all distributions for the fiscal year are made after the end of the fiscal year and are 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 fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, is reflected in the accompanying financial statements.

### *Indemnifications*

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

*Netting Agreements*

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

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

*Use of Estimates*

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

Nuveen Investments

29

---

## Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

### 2. Investment Valuation and Fair Value Measurements

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

#### Investment Valuation

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

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

Index options are valued at the 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) close price of the NYSE. The value of exchange-traded options are based on the mean of the closing bid and ask prices. Index options and exchange-traded options are generally classified as Level 1. Options traded in the over-the-counter market are valued using an evaluated mean price and are generally classified as Level 2.

Futures contracts are valued using the closing settlement price or, in the absence of such a price, the last traded price, and are generally classified as Level 1.

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

Certain securities may not be able to be priced by the pre-established pricing methods as described above. Such securities may be valued by the Board and/or its appointee at fair value. These securities generally include, but are not limited to, restricted securities (securities which may not be publicly sold without registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended) for which a pricing service is unable to provide a market price; securities whose trading has been formally suspended; debt securities that have gone into default and for which there is no current market quotation; a security whose market price is not available from a pre-established pricing source; a security with respect to which an event has occurred that is likely to materially affect the value of the security after the market has closed but before the calculation of the fund's NAV (as may be the case in non-U.S. markets on which the security is primarily traded) or make it difficult or impossible to obtain a reliable market quotation; and a security whose price, as provided by the pricing service, is not deemed to reflect the security's fair value. As a general principle, the fair value of a security would appear to be the amount that the owner might reasonably expect to receive for it in a current sale. A variety of factors may be considered in determining the fair value of such securities, which may include consideration of the following: yields or prices of investments of comparable quality, type of issue,

coupon, maturity and rating, market quotes or indications of value from security dealers, evaluations of anticipated cash flows or collateral, general market conditions and other information and analysis, including the obligor's credit characteristics considered relevant. These securities are generally classified as Level 2 or Level 3 depending on the priority of the significant inputs. Regardless of the method employed to value a particular security, all valuations are subject to review by the Board and/or its appointee.

### **Fair Value Measurements**

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

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

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

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

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

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
<b>Long-Term Investments*:</b>				
Common Stocks	\$279,436,409	\$	\$	\$279,436,409
<b>Short-Term Investments:</b>				
Repurchase				
Agreements		1,478,585		1,478,585
U.S. Government and Agency				
Obligations		2,499,978		2,499,978
<b>Investments in Derivatives:</b>				
Options Written	(350,625)	(190,442)		(541,067)
Futures				
Contracts**	84,721			84,721
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$279,170,505</b>	<b>\$3,788,121</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$282,958,626</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **3. Portfolio Securities and Investments in Derivatives**

#### **Portfolio Securities**

##### *Foreign Currency Transactions*

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

The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currencies, assets and liabilities are translated into U.S. dollars at 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Investment transactions, income and expenses are translated on the respective dates of such transactions. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date of the transactions, foreign currency transactions and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amounts actually received.

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

The unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in foreign currency exchange rates and changes in foreign exchange rates associated with other assets and liabilities on investments are recognized as a component of "Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments and foreign currency" on the Statement of Operations, when applicable. The unrealized gains and losses resulting from changes in foreign exchange rates associated with forward foreign currency exchange contracts, futures contracts, options purchased, options written and swaps are recognized as a component of "Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of forward foreign currency exchange contracts, futures contracts, options purchased, options written and swaps," respectively, on the Statement of Operations, when applicable.

*Repurchase Agreements*

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

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

<b>Counterparty</b>	<b>Short-Term Investments, at Value</b>	<b>Collateral Pledged (From) Counterparty*</b>	<b>Net Exposure</b>
Fixed Income Clearing Corporation	\$ 1,478,585	\$ (1,478,585)	\$

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

*Zero Coupon Securities*

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

**Investments in Derivatives**

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

#### *Futures Contracts*

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

During the period the futures contract is open, changes in the value of the contract are recognized as an unrealized gain or loss by "marking-to-market" on a daily basis to reflect the changes in market value of the contract, which is recognized as a component of "Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of futures contracts" on the Statement of Operations. When the contract is closed or expired, the Fund records a realized gain or loss equal to the difference between the value of the contract on the closing date and value of the contract when originally entered into, which is recognized as a component of "Net realized gain (loss) from futures contracts" on the Statement of Operations.

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

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

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

Average notional amount of futures contracts outstanding*	\$5,805,600
---	-------------

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

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

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Location on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities		Value
		Asset Derivatives	(Liability) Derivatives	
Equity price	Futures contracts		Payable for variation margin on futures contracts*	\$84,721

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

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

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Net Realized Gain (Loss) from Futures Contracts	Change in Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Futures Contracts
Equity price	Futures contracts	\$ 841,860	\$ (119,099)
	Options Transactions		

When the Fund writes an option, an amount equal to the net premium received (the premium less commission) is recognized as a component of "Options written, at value" on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities and is subsequently adjusted to reflect the current value of the written option until the option is exercised or expires or the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction. The changes in the value of options written during the fiscal period are recognized as a component of "Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of options written" on the Statement of Operations. When an option is exercised or expires or the Fund enters into a closing purchase transaction, the difference between the net premium received and any amount paid at expiration or on executing a closing purchase transaction, including commission, is recognized as a component of "Net realized gain (loss) from options written" on the

Statements of Operations. The Fund, as a writer of an option, has no control over whether the underlying instrument may be sold (called) or purchased (put) and as a result bears the risk of an unfavorable change in the market value of the instrument or index underlying the written option. There is also the risk the Fund may not be able to enter into a closing transaction because of an illiquid market.

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

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

Average notional amount of outstanding options written*	\$(115,398,526)
---	-----------------

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

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

Underlying Risk Exposure	Derivative Instrument	Location on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities			
		Asset Derivatives		(Liability) Derivatives	
		Location	Value	Location	Value
Equity price	Options		\$	Options written, at value	\$(541,067)

Nuveen Investments

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)

The following table presents the options written that are subject to netting agreements as of the end of the reporting period, and the collateral delivered related to those contracts.

<b>Counterparty</b>	<b>Gross Options Written, at Value*</b>	<b>Amounts Netted on Statement of Assets and Liabilities</b>	<b>Net Options Written, at Value</b>	<b>Collateral Pledged to Counterparty</b>	<b>Net Exposure</b>
Citigroup	\$ (88,017)	\$	\$ (88,017)	\$ 88,017	\$
Deutsche Bank	(102,425)		(102,425)		(102,425)
HSBC					
Total	\$ (190,442)	\$	\$ (190,442)	\$ 88,017	\$(102,425)

\* Represents gross value for the counterparty as presented in the Fund's Portfolio of Investments.

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

<b>Underlying Risk Exposure</b>	<b>Derivative Instrument</b>	<b>Net Realized Gain (Loss) from Options Written</b>	<b>Change in Net Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) of Options Written</b>
Equity price	Options	\$ (5,486,168)	\$ 650,895

*Market and Counterparty Credit Risk*

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

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

**4. Fund Shares**

The Fund did not have any transactions in shares during the fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013.

**5. Investment Transactions**

Long-term purchases and sales (excluding derivative transactions) during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, aggregated \$325,020,352 and \$369,484,088, respectively.

Transactions in options written during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, were as follows:

	<b>Number of Contracts</b>	<b>Premiums Received</b>
Options outstanding, beginning of period	234,481	\$ 652,773
Options written	4,231,647	6,665,066
Options terminated in closing purchase transactions	(891,517)	(4,341,789)
Options expired	(3,137,522)	(2,275,943)
Options outstanding, end of period	437,089	\$ 700,107

Nuveen Investments

34

## 6. Income Tax Information

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

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

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

As of December 31, 2014, the cost and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments (excluding investments in derivatives), as determined on a federal income tax basis, were as follows:

Cost of investments	\$249,274,710
Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 36,785,951
Depreciation	(2,645,689)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	\$ 34,140,262

Permanent differences, primarily due to Real Estate Investment Trust adjustments, resulted in reclassifications among the Fund's components of net assets as of December 31, 2014, the Fund's tax year-end, as follows:

Paid-in surplus	\$
Undistributed (Over-distribution of) net investment income	(10,734)
Accumulated net realized gain (loss)	10,734

The tax components of undistributed net ordinary income and net long-term capital gains as of December 31, 2014, the Fund's tax year end, were as follows:

Undistributed net ordinary income	\$
Undistributed net long-term capital gains	39,151,149

The tax character of distributions paid during the Fund's tax years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, was designated for purposes of the dividends paid deduction as follows:

<b>2014</b>	
Distributions from net ordinary income <sup>1</sup>	\$ 7,909,307
Distributions from net long-term capital gains <sup>2</sup>	32,330,760

**2013**

Distributions from net ordinary income <sup>1</sup>	\$ 2,938,510
Distributions from net long-term capital gains	20,219,235

<sup>1</sup> Net ordinary income consists of net taxable income derived from dividends and interest, and net short-term capital gains, if any.

<sup>2</sup> The Fund designates as long-term capital gain dividend, pursuant to Internal Revenue Code 852 (b)(3), the amount necessary to reduce earnings and profits of the Fund related to net capital gain to zero for the tax year ended December 31, 2014.

Nuveen Investments  
35

---

**Notes to Financial Statements** (continued)**7. Management Fees and Other Transactions with Affiliates**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

First American Funds effective January 1, 2011. As of December 31, 2014, the complex-level fee rate for the Fund was 0.1639%.

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

Nuveen Investments

36

---



## Additional

### Fund Information (Unaudited)

#### Board of Trustees

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

\* Interested Board Member.

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

#### Quarterly Form N-Q Portfolio of Investments Information

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

#### Nuveen Funds' Proxy Voting Information

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

#### CEO Certification Disclosure

The Fund's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) has submitted to the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) the annual CEO certification as required by Section 303A.12(a) of the NYSE Listed Company Manual.

The Fund has filed with the SEC the certification of its CEO and Chief Financial Officer required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

#### Share Information

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

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

**JCE**

Shares repurchased

Nuveen Investments

37

**Additional Fund Information** (continued)

**Distribution Information**

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

	<b>JCE</b>
% DRD	59.52%
% QDI	64.83%

**FINRA BrokerCheck**

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

## Glossary of Terms

### Used in this Report

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

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

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

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

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

## **Reinvest Automatically,**

## **Easily and Conveniently**

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

### **Nuveen Closed-End Funds Automatic Reinvestment Plan**

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

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

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

### **Easy and convenient**

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

### **How shares are purchased**

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

### **Flexible**

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

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

another firm and continue to participate in the Plan.

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

**Call today to start reinvesting distributions**

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

Nuveen Investments

40

---

**Board****Members & Officers**

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

<b>Name, Year of Birth &amp; Address</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Funds</b>	<b>Year First Elected or Appointed and Term<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) Including other Directorships During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member</b>
<b>Independent Board Members:</b>				
<b>nWILLIAM J. SCHNEIDER</b>				
1944 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Chairman and Board Member	<b>1996 Class III</b>	Chairman of Miller-Valentine Partners, a real estate investment company; formerly, Senior Partner and Chief Operating Officer (retired (2004) of Miller-Valentine Group; an owner in several other Miller Valentine entities; Board Member of Med-America Health System, Tech Town, Inc., a not-for-profit community development company, Board Member of WDPR Public Radio station; formerly, member, Business Advisory Council, Cleveland Federal Reserve Bank and University of Dayton Business School Advisory Council.	<b>195</b>
<b>nJACK B. EVANS</b>				
1948 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>1999 Class III</b>	President, The Hall-Perrine Foundation, a private philanthropic corporation (since 1996); Chairman, United Fire Group, a publicly held company; formerly, President Pro-Tem of the Board of Regents for the State of Iowa University System; Director, Source Media Group; Life Trustee of Coe College; formerly, Director, Alliant Energy; formerly, Director, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; formerly, President and Chief Operating Officer, SCI Financial Group, Inc., a regional financial services firm.	<b>195</b>
<b>nWILLIAM C. HUNTER</b>				
1948 333 W. Wacker Drive	Board Member	<b>2004 Class I</b>	Dean Emeritus (since June 30, 2012), formerly, Dean, Tippie College of Business, University of Iowa (2006-2012); Director (since 2004) of Xerox Corporation; Director (since 2005), and President (since	<b>195</b>

Chicago,  
IL 60606

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

**nDAVID J. KUNDERT**

1942

333 W.

Wacker

Drive

Chicago,

IL 60606

Board

Member

**2005**

**Class II**

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

**195**

Nuveen Investments

**Board Members & Officers** (Unaudited) (continued)

<b>Name, Year of Birth &amp; Address</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Funds</b>	<b>Year First Elected or Appointed and Term<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) Including other Directorships During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member</b>
<b>Independent Board Members (continued):</b>				
<b>nJOHN K. NELSON</b>				
1962 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>2013 Class II</b>	Senior external advisor to the financial services practice of Deloitte Consulting LLP (since 2012); Member of Board of Directors of Core12 LLC since 2008), a private firm which develops branding, marketing and communications strategies for clients; Director of The Curran Center for Catholic American Studies (since 2009) and The President's Council, Fordham University (since 2010); formerly, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Marian University (2010 as trustee, 2011-2014 as Chairman); formerly, Chief Executive Officer of ABN AMRO N.V. North America, and Global Head of its Financial Markets Division (2007-2008); prior senior positions held at ABN AMRO include Corporate Executive Vice President and Head of Global Markets-the Americas (2006-2007), CEO of Wholesale Banking North America and Global Head of Foreign Exchange and Futures Markets (2001-2006), and Regional Commercial Treasurer and Senior Vice President Trading-North America (1996-2001); formerly, Trustee at St. Edmund Preparatory School in New York City.	<b>195</b>
<b>nJUDITH M. STOCKDALE</b>				
1947 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>1997 Class I</b>	Board Member, Land Trust Alliance (since June 2013) and U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities (since November 2013); formerly, Executive Director (1994-2012), Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; prior thereto, Executive Director, Great Lakes Protection Fund (1990-1994).	<b>195</b>
<b>nCAROLE E. STONE</b>				
1947 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>2007 Class I</b>	Director, Chicago Board Options Exchange (since 2006); Director, C2 Options Exchange, Incorporated (since 2009); Director, CBOE Holdings, Inc. (since 2010); formerly, Commissioner, New York State Commission on Public Authority Reform (2005-2010).	<b>195</b>
<b>nVIRGINIA L. STRINGER</b>				

<p>1944 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	<p>Board Member</p>	<p><b>2011</b> <b>Class I</b></p>	<p>Board Member, Mutual Fund Directors Forum; former governance consultant and non-profit board member; former Owner and President, Strategic Management Resources, Inc., a management consulting firm; former Member, Governing Board, Investment Company Institute's Independent Directors Council; previously, held several executive positions in general management, marketing and human resources at IBM and The Pillsbury Company; Independent Director, First American Fund Complex (1987-2010) and Chair (1997-2010).</p>	<p><b>195</b></p>
---	-------------------------	---------------------------------------	--	-------------------

<p><b>nTERENCE J. TOTH</b> 1959 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606</p>	<p>Board Member</p>	<p><b>2008</b> <b>Class II</b></p>	<p>Managing Partner, Promus Capital (since 2008); Director, Fulcrum IT Service LLC (since 2010), Quality Control Corporation (since 2012) and LogicMark LLC (since 2012); formerly, Director, Legal &amp; General Investment Management America, Inc. (2008-2013); formerly, CEO and President, Northern Trust Global Investments (2004-2007); Executive Vice President, Quantitative Management &amp; Securities Lending (2000-2004); prior thereto, various positions with Northern Trust Company (since 1994); member: Chicago Fellowship Board (since 2005), Catalyst Schools of Chicago Board (since 2008) and Chairman, and Mather Foundation Board (since 2012), and a member of its investment committee; formerly, Member, Northern Trust Mutual Funds Board (2005-2007), Northern Trust Global Investments Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Japan Board (2004-2007), Northern Trust Securities Inc. Board (2003-2007) and Northern Trust Hong Kong Board (1997-2004).</p>	<p><b>195</b></p>
---	-------------------------	--	--	-------------------

Nuveen Investments

<b>Name, Year of Birth &amp; Address</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Funds</b>	<b>Year First Elected or Appointed and Term<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) Including other Directorships During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Board Member</b>
<b>Interested Board Members:</b>				
<b>nWILLIAM ADAMS IV<sup>(2)</sup></b>				
1955 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>2013 Class II</b>	Senior Executive Vice President, Global Structured Products (since 2010); formerly, Executive Vice President, U.S. Structured Products, of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (1999-2010); Co-President of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (since 2011); President (since 2011), formerly, Managing Director (2010-2011) of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC; Board Member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and of Gilda's Club Chicago.	<b>195</b>
<b>nTHOMAS S. SCHREIER, JR.<sup>(2)</sup></b>				
1962 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Board Member	<b>2013 Class III</b>	Vice Chairman, Wealth Management of Nuveen Investments, Inc. (since 2011); Co-President of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Chairman of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (since 2011); Co-Chief Executive Officer of Nuveen Securities, LLC (since 2011); Member of Board of Governors and Chairman's Council of the Investment Company Institute; formerly, Chief Executive Officer (2000-2010) and Chief Investment Officer (2007-2010) of FAF Advisors, Inc.; formerly, President of First American Funds (2001-2010).	<b>195</b>
<b>Officers of the Funds:</b>				
<b>nGIFFORD R. ZIMMERMAN</b>				
1956 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Chief Administrative Officer	<b>1988</b>	Managing Director (since 2002), and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2004) and Assistant Secretary (since 1994) of Nuveen Investments, Inc.; Managing Director (since 2002), Assistant Secretary (since 1997) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC (since 2011);	<b>196</b>
<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Funds</b>	<b>Year First Elected or Appointed<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer</b>

Managing Director, Associate General Counsel and Assistant Secretary, of Symphony Asset Management LLC (since 2003); Vice President and Assistant Secretary of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC (since 2002), Nuveen Investments Advisers Inc. (since 2002), Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC (since 2006), and of Winslow Capital Management, LLC, (since 2010); Vice President and Assistant Secretary (since 2013), formerly, Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Compliance Officer (2006-2013) of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC; Chartered Financial Analyst.

**nCEDRIC H. ANTOSIEWICZ**

1962  
333 W. Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606

**2007**

Vice President

Managing Director of Nuveen Securities, LLC. (since 2004); Managing Director of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (since 2014)

**89**

**nMARGO L. COOK**

1964  
333 W. Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606

**2009**

Vice President

Executive Vice President (since 2008) of Nuveen Investments, Inc. and of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (since 2011); Managing Director-Investment Services of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC (since August 2011), previously, Head of Institutional Asset Management (2007-2008) of Bear Stearns Asset Management; Head of Institutional Asset Management (1986-2007) of Bank of NY Mellon; Chartered Financial Analyst.

**196**

Nuveen Investments

**Board Members & Officers** (Unaudited) (continued)

<b>Name, Year of Birth and Address</b>	<b>Position(s) Held with the Funds</b>	<b>Year First Elected or Appointed<sup>(3)</sup></b>	<b>Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years</b>	<b>Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer</b>
<b>Officers of the Funds (continued):</b>				
<b>nLORNA C. FERGUSON</b>				
1945 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President	<b>1998</b>	Managing Director (since 2005) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC and Nuveen Securities, LLC (since 2004).	<b>196</b>
<b>nSTEPHEN D. FOY</b>				
1954 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Controller	<b>1998</b>	Managing Director (since 2014), formerly, Senior Vice President (2013-2014), and Vice President of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Chief Financial Officer of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC (since 2010); Senior Vice President (2010-2011), Formerly Vice President (2005-2010) and Funds Controller of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Certified Public Accountant.	<b>196</b>
<b>nSCOTT S. GRACE</b>				
1970 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Treasurer	<b>2009</b>	Managing Director, Corporate Finance & Development, Treasurer (since 2009) of Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director and Treasurer (since 2009) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC, Nuveen Investments Advisers, Inc., Nuveen Investments Holdings Inc. and (since 2011) Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Vice President and Treasurer of NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, Tradewinds Global Investors, LLC, Symphony Asset Management LLC and Winslow Capital Management, LLC.; Vice President of Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC; formerly, Treasurer (2006-2009), Senior Vice President (2008-2009), previously, Vice President (2006-2008) of Janus Capital Group, Inc.; formerly, Senior Associate in Morgan Stanley's Global Financial Services Group (2000-2003); Chartered Accountant Designation.	<b>196</b>
<b>nWALTER M. KELLY</b>				
1970 333 W. Wacker Drive	Chief Compliance Officer and	<b>2003</b>	Senior Vice President (since 2008) of Nuveen Investment Holdings, Inc.	<b>196</b>

Chicago, IL 60606 <b>nTINA M. LAZAR</b> 1961 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President  Vice President	<b>2002</b>	Senior Vice President of Nuveen Investment Holdings, Inc.	<b>196</b>
1966 333 W. Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 <b>nKEVIN J. MCCARTHY</b>	Vice President and Secretary	<b>2007</b>	Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (since 2008), Nuveen Securities, LLC; Managing Director (since 2008), Assistant Secretary since 2007) and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Managing Director (since 2008), and Assistant Secretary, Nuveen Investment Holdings, Inc.; Vice President (since 2007) and Assistant Secretary of Nuveen Investments Advisers Inc., NWQ Investment Management Company, LLC, NWQ Holdings, LLC, Symphony Asset Management LLC, Santa Barbara Asset Management, LLC, and of Winslow Capital Management, LLC. (since 2010); Vice President and Secretary (since 2010) of Nuveen Commodities Asset Management, LLC.	<b>196</b>

Nuveen Investments

Name, Year of Birth and Address	Position(s) Held with the Funds	Year First Elected or Appointed <sup>(3)</sup>	Principal Occupation(s) During Past 5 Years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Officer
<b>Officers of the Funds (continued):</b>				
<b>nKATHLEEN L. PRUDHOMME</b>				
1953 901 Marquette Avenue Minneapolis, MN 55402	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	<b>2011</b>	Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Co-General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC; Managing Director, Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel (since 2011) of Nuveen Asset Management, LLC; Managing Director and Assistant Secretary (since 2011) of Nuveen Securities, LLC; formerly, Deputy General Counsel, FAF Advisors, Inc. (2004-2010).	<b>196</b>
<b>nJOEL T. SLAGER</b>				
1978 333 West Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606	Vice President and Assistant Secretary	<b>2013</b>	Fund Tax Director for Nuveen Funds (since May, 2013); previously, Vice President of Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Inc., Assistant Treasurer of the Morgan Stanley Funds (from 2010 to 2013); Tax Director at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (from 2008 to 2010).	<b>196</b>

(1) The Board Members serve three year terms. The Board of Trustees is divided into three classes. Class I, Class II, and Class III, with each being elected to serve until the third succeeding annual shareholders' meeting subsequent to its election or thereafter in each case when its respective successors are duly elected or appointed. The first year elected or appointed represents the year in which the board member was first elected or appointed to any fund in the Nuveen Complex.

(2) "Interested person" as defined in the 1940 Act, by reason of his position with Nuveen Investments, Inc. and certain of its subsidiaries, which are affiliates of the Nuveen Funds.

(3) Officers serve one year terms through August of each year. The year first elected or appointed represents the year in which the Officer was first elected or appointed to any fund in the Nuveen Complex.

**Notes**

---

**Notes**

---



Nuveen Investments:

### **Serving Investors for Generations**

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

### **Focused on meeting investor needs.**

Nuveen Investments provides high-quality investment services designed to help secure the long-term goals of institutional and individual investors as well as the consultants and financial advisors who serve them. Nuveen Investments markets a wide range of specialized investment solutions which provide investors access to capabilities of its high-quality boutique investment affiliates Nuveen Asset Management, Symphony Asset Management, NWQ Investment Management Company, Santa Barbara Asset Management, Tradewinds Global Investors, Winslow Capital Management and Gresham Investment Management. In total, Nuveen Investments managed \$230 billion as of December 31, 2014.

### **Find out how we can help you.**

To learn more about how the products and services of Nuveen Investments may be able to help you meet your financial goals, talk to your financial advisor, or call us at (800) 257-8787. Please read the information provided carefully before you invest. Investors should consider the investment objective and policies, risk considerations, charges and expenses of any investment carefully. Where applicable, be sure to obtain a prospectus, which contains this and other relevant information. To obtain a prospectus, please contact your securities representative or Nuveen Investments, 333 W. Wacker Dr., Chicago, IL 60606. Please read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.

Learn more about Nuveen Funds at: [www.nuveen.com/cef](http://www.nuveen.com/cef)

**Distributed by** Nuveen Securities, LLC | 333 West Wacker Drive | Chicago, IL 60606 | [www.nuveen.com/cef](http://www.nuveen.com/cef)

EAN-I-1214D 6252-INV-Y02/16

---



ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

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

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

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

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

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

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

NUVEEN CORE EQUITY ALPHA FUND

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

The following tables show the amount of fees that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Fund's auditor, billed to the Fund during the Fund's last two full fiscal years. For engagements with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the Audit Committee approved in advance all audit services and non-audit services that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP provided to the Fund, except for those non-audit services that were subject to the pre-approval exception under Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X (the pre-approval exception). The pre-approval exception for services provided directly to the Fund waives the pre-approval requirement for services other than audit, review or attest services if: (A) the aggregate amount of all such services provided constitutes no more than 5% of the total amount of revenues paid by the Fund to its accountant during the fiscal year in which the services are provided; (B) the Fund did not recognize the services as non-audit services at the time of the engagement; and (C) the services are promptly brought to the Audit Committee's attention, and the Committee (or its delegate) approves the services before the audit is completed.

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

### SERVICES THAT THE FUND'S AUDITOR BILLED TO THE FUND

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit Fees Billed to Fund (1)	Audit-Related Fees Billed to Fund (2)	Tax Fees Billed to Fund (3)	All Other Fees Billed to Fund (4)
December 31, 2014	\$ 30,640	\$ 0	\$ 810	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%	0%
December 31, 2013	\$ 29,372	\$ 0	\$ 3,250	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%	0%

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

- 
- (1) **Audit Fees** are the aggregate fees billed for professional services for the audit of the Fund's annual financial statements and services provided in connection with statutory and regulatory filings or engagements.
  - (2) **Audit Related Fees** are the aggregate fees billed for assurance and related services reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of financial statements that are not reported under **Audit Fees**. These fees include offerings related to the Fund's common shares and leverage.
  - (3) **Tax Fees** are the aggregate fees billed for professional services for tax advice, tax compliance, and tax planning. These fees include: all global withholding tax services; excise and state tax reviews; capital gain, tax equalization and taxable basis calculation performed by the principal accountant.
  - (4) **All Other Fees** are the aggregate fees billed for products and services other than **Audit Fees**, **Audit-Related Fees** and **Tax Fees**. These fees represent all **Agreed-Upon Procedures** engagements pertaining to the Fund's use of leverage.

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

The following tables show the amount of fees billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to Nuveen Fund Advisors, LLC (formerly Nuveen Fund Advisors, Inc.) (the **Adviser**), and any entity controlling, controlled by or under common control with the Adviser that provides ongoing services to the Fund ( **Affiliated Fund Service Provider** ), for engagements directly related to the Fund's operations and financial reporting, during the Fund's last two full fiscal years.

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

Fiscal Year Ended	Audit-Related Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	Tax Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers	All Other Fees Billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers
December 31, 2014	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%
December 31, 2013	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Percentage approved pursuant to pre-approval exception	0%	0%	0%

NON-AUDIT SERVICES

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

Fiscal Year Ended	Total Non-Audit Fees Billed to Fund	Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (engagements related directly to the operations and financial reporting of the Fund)	Total Non-Audit Fees billed to Adviser and Affiliated Fund Service Providers (all other engagements)	Total
December 31, 2014	\$ 810	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 810
December 31, 2013	\$ 3,250	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 3,250

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

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

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

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

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

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS.

- (a) See Portfolio of Investments in Item 1.
  
- (b) Not applicable.

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

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

**INTECH**

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

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

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

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

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

**NUVEEN ASSET MANAGEMENT**

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

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

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

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

In addition to the Fund, as of December 31, 2014, the portfolio managers are also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts:

(i) Name of Portfolio Manager	(ii) Number of Other Accounts Managed and Assets by Account Type							(iii) Number of Other Accounts and Assets for Which Advisory Fee is Performance-Based		
	Other Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts	Other Registered Investment Companies		Other Pooled Investment Vehicles		Other Accounts
	Number	Assets	Number	Assets		Number	Assets	Number	Assets	
Keith Hembre	10	\$ 2.81 billion	0	\$ 0	9	\$ 104 million	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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

David Friar	9	\$	3.72 billion	0	\$	0	12	\$	528 million	N/A	N/A	N/A
-------------	---	----	-----------------	---	----	---	----	----	----------------	-----	-----	-----

### POTENTIAL MATERIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A portion of each portfolio manager's annual cash bonus is based on the Fund's pre-tax investment performance, generally measured over the past one- and three or five-year periods unless the portfolio manager's tenure is shorter. Investment performance for the Fund generally is determined

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

by evaluating the Fund's performance relative to its benchmark(s) and/or Lipper industry peer group.

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

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

*Long-term incentive compensation.* Certain key employees of Nuveen Investments and its affiliates, including certain portfolio managers, have received equity interests in the parent company of Nuveen Investments. In addition, certain key employees of Nuveen Asset Management, including certain portfolio managers, have received profits interests in Nuveen Asset Management which entitle their holders to participate in the firm's growth over time.

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

### Item 8(a)(4). OWNERSHIP OF JCE SECURITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

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

---

**INTECH**

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

No one person of the investment team is primarily responsible for implementing the investment strategies of the Fund. A team of investment professionals consisting of Dr. Adrian Banner, Dr. Vassilios Papathanakos, Joseph Runnels, and Dr. Phillip Whitman works together to implement the mathematical portfolio management process.

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

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

Joseph W. Runnels, CFA, has been vice president of portfolio management at INTECH since March 2003 and joined the firm in 1998. Mr. Runnels holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Murray State University. Mr. Runnels implements the day-to-day portfolio management and trading process for client portfolios. He also handles brokerage relationships and supervises the daily execution of trading for client accounts. Mr. Runnels holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Phillip Whitman, Ph.D., became director of research in November 2012 and was previously associate director of research since joining INTECH in November 2010. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from Princeton University and holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Texas. While enrolled in the Ph.D. program at Princeton University from 2005 through November 2010, he served as a course instructor and assistant instructor for multivariable calculus in 2008 and 2009, respectively. Dr. Whitman works with INTECH's mathematicians and physicists on the application of mathematics in portfolio construction using probability theory, data analysis, and other fields in pure and applied mathematics.

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

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

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Banner is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2014, unless otherwise indicated:

Registered Investment Company*	15	\$	4,377,912,589
Other Accounts***	183	\$	37,557,505,385

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Papathanakos is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2014, unless otherwise indicated:

Registered Investment Company*	15	\$	4,377,912,589
Other Accounts***	183	\$	37,557,505,385

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Mr. Runnels is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2014, unless otherwise indicated:

Registered Investment Company*	15	\$	4,377,912,589
Other Accounts***	183	\$	37,557,505,385

In addition to managing the Equity Portfolio, Dr. Whitman is also primarily responsible for the day-to-day portfolio management of the following accounts. Information is provided as of December 31, 2014, unless otherwise indicated:

Registered Investment Company*	15	\$	4,377,912,589
Other Accounts***	183	\$	37,557,505,385

- 
- \* 1 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$726,219,029 of the total assets in the category, has performance-based advisory fees.
  - \*\* 3 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$3,046,313,928 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.
  - \*\*\* 51 of the accounts included in the total, consisting of \$13,799,867,396 of the total assets in the category, have performance-based advisory fees.



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

- The management of multiple accounts may result in a portfolio manager devoting unequal time and attention to the management of each account. INTECH believes its mathematical investment process and the procedures it has in place are reasonably designed to mitigate these potential conflicts and risks. Specifically, INTECH's mathematical investment process significantly removes investment discretion.
  - If a portfolio manager identifies a limited investment opportunity that may be suitable for more than one account, an account may not be able to take full advantage of that opportunity due to an allocation of filled purchase or sale orders across all eligible accounts. For INTECH, all allocations are based on computer-generated target weightings and trades occur simultaneously for all accounts on a rotating basis. Before submission for execution, trades are reviewed by the trader for errors or discrepancies. Trades are submitted to designated brokers in a single electronic file at one time during the day, pre-allocated to individual clients. In the event that an aggregated order is not completely filled, executed shares are allocated to participating client accounts in proportion to the order.
  - INTECH has an established procedure for the selection, approval, management and annual review of broker relationships. INTECH gives primary consideration to obtaining the most favorable price and efficient execution. INTECH may, however, pay a higher commission than would otherwise be necessary for a particular transaction when, in INTECH's opinion, to do so would further the goal of obtaining the best available execution. INTECH does not participate in soft dollar or directed brokerage commission arrangements and will not accept directed brokerage instructions. INTECH has a policy of paying commissions for execution services only and does not purchase research or other services from or through brokers using commissions.
  - The Fund is subject to different regulation than the other pooled investment vehicles and other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. As a consequence of this difference in regulatory requirements, the Fund may not be permitted to engage in all the investment techniques or transactions or to engage in these transactions to the same extent as the other accounts managed by the portfolio manager. INTECH's mathematical investment process may result in situations in which some of its clients may sell securities when other clients purchase the same securities at or about the same time. In an attempt to reduce the likelihood of the orders matching up in the market and in an effort to maintain the confidentiality of INTECH's trading activities for purposes of improved execution, INTECH isolates its sale orders from its purchase orders with different brokers handling each order.
-

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

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

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

*Salary and Cash Bonus.* With respect to INTECH, as of December 31, 2014, the compensation structure of the investment personnel is determined by INTECH and is summarized below.

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

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

### Item 8(a)(4). OWNERSHIP OF JCE SECURITIES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2014

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

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

Not applicable.

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

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

ITEM 11. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

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

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

---

ITEM 12. EXHIBITS.

File the exhibits listed below as part of this Form.

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

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

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

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

---

SIGNATURES

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

(Registrant) Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund

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

Date: March 6, 2015

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

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

Date: March 6, 2015

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

Date: March 6, 2015