

Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund  
Form N-Q  
November 27, 2013

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, DC 20549**

**FORM N-Q**

**QUARTERLY SCHEDULE OF PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT  
INVESTMENT COMPANY**

Investment Company Act file number 811-22003

**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

**333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606**

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

**Kevin J. McCarthy Vice President and Secretary**

**333 West Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606**

(Name and address of agent for service)

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

Date of fiscal year

end: 12/31

Date of reporting period: 9/30/2013

Form N-Q is to be used by management investment companies, other than small business investment companies registered on Form N-5 (§§ 239.24 and 274.5 of this chapter), to file reports with the Commission, not later than 60 days after the close of the first and third fiscal quarters, pursuant to rule 30b1-5 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30b1-5). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-Q in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-Q, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-Q 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 the 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. § 3507.



**Item 1. Schedule of Investments**

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**Portfolio of Investments (Unaudited)**  
**Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (JCE)**  
 September 30, 2013

| Shares | Description (1)                          | Value            |
|--------|--|------------------|
|        | <b>LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS - 98.6%</b>     |                  |
|        | <b>Common Stocks - 98.6%</b>             |                  |
|        | <b>Aerospace &amp; Defense - 2.9%</b>    |                  |
| 22,300 | Boeing Company                           | \$ 2,620,250     |
| 400    | Honeywell International Inc.             | 33,216           |
| 1,100  | L-3 Communications Holdings, Inc.        | 103,950          |
| 9,100  | Lockheed Martin Corporation              | 1,160,705        |
| 32,400 | Northrop Grumman Corporation             | 3,086,424        |
| 1,700  | Precision Castparts Corporation          | 386,308          |
| 4,900  | Raytheon Company                         | 377,643          |
| 1,600  | Rockwell Collins, Inc.                   | 108,576          |
| 200    | United Technologies Corporation          | 21,564           |
|        | <b>Total Aerospace &amp; Defense</b>     | <b>7,898,636</b> |
|        | <b>Airlines - 0.4%</b>                   |                  |
| 12,100 | Delta Air Lines, Inc.                    | 285,439          |
| 62,500 | Southwest Airlines Co.                   | 910,000          |
|        | <b>Total Airlines</b>                    | <b>1,195,439</b> |
|        | <b>Auto Components - 0.6%</b>            |                  |
| 25,000 | Delphi Automotive PLC                    | 1,460,500        |
| 1,000  | Johnson Controls, Inc.                   | 41,500           |
|        | <b>Total Auto Components</b>             | <b>1,502,000</b> |
|        | <b>Automobiles - 0.5%</b>                |                  |
| 49,500 | Ford Motor Company                       | 835,065          |
| 11,300 | General Motors Company, (2)              | 406,461          |
|        | <b>Total Automobiles</b>                 | <b>1,241,526</b> |
|        | <b>Beverages - 2.0%</b>                  |                  |
| 12,000 | Beam Inc.                                | 775,800          |
| 6,900  | Brown-Forman Corporation                 | 470,097          |
| 11,000 | Coca-Cola Company                        | 416,680          |
| 45,900 | Constellation Brands, Inc., Class A, (2) | 2,634,660        |
| 6,300  | Dr. Pepper Snapple Group                 | 282,366          |
| 6,700  | Monster Beverage Corporation, (2)        | 350,075          |
| 6,800  | PepsiCo, Inc.                            | 540,600          |
|        | <b>Total Beverages</b>                   | <b>5,470,278</b> |
|        | <b>Biotechnology - 3.2%</b>              |                  |
| 28,600 | Amgen Inc.                               | 3,201,484        |
| 7,900  | Biogen Idec Inc., (2)                    | 1,902,004        |
| 5,700  | Celgene Corporation, (2)                 | 877,401          |
| 32,300 | Gilead Sciences, Inc., (2)               | 2,029,732        |
| 400    | Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., (2)     | 125,148          |
| 5,000  | Vertex Pharmaceuticals Incorporated, (2) | 379,100          |
|        | <b>Total Biotechnology</b>               | <b>8,514,869</b> |
|        | <b>Capital Markets - 3.2%</b>            |                  |
| 12,900 | Ameriprise Financial, Inc.               | 1,174,932        |
| 8,700  | BlackRock Inc.                           | 2,354,394        |
| 39,300 | Charles Schwab Corporation               | 830,802          |
| 6,800  | Goldman Sachs Group, Inc.                | 1,075,828        |
| 48,900 | State Street Corporation                 | 3,215,175        |
|        | <b>Total Capital Markets</b>             | <b>8,651,131</b> |
|        | <b>Chemicals - 3.4%</b>                  |                  |
| 1,400  | Airgas, Inc.                             | 148,470          |
| 3,900  | E.I. Du Pont de Nemours and Company      | 228,384          |
| 6,300  | Eastman Chemical Company                 | 490,770          |
| 2,700  | Ecolab Inc.                              | 266,652          |
| 8,700  | FMC Corporation                          | 623,964          |
| 3,800  | International Flavors & Fragrances Inc.  | 312,740          |
| 5,600  | LyondellBasell Industries NV             | 410,088          |
| 1,600  | Monsanto Company                         | 166,992          |
| 2,500  | Mosaic Company                           | 107,550          |

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|        |  |           |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 14,500 | PPG Industries, Inc.                                 | 2,422,370 |
| 6,100  | Praxair, Inc.  | 733,281   |
| 17,100 | Sherwin-Williams Company                             | 3,115,278 |
| 1,700  | Sigma-Aldrich Corporation                            | 145,010   |
|        | Total Chemicals                                      | 9,171,549 |
|        | <b>Commercial Banks - 1.6%</b>                       |           |
| 40,300 | BB&T Corporation                                     | 1,360,125 |
| 2,500  | Comerica Incorporated                                | 98,275    |
| 10,800 | KeyCorp  | 123,120   |
| 13,200 | M&T Bank Corporation                                 | 1,477,344 |
| 22,000 | Regions Financial Corporation                        | 203,720   |
| 11,500 | U.S. Bancorp   | 420,670   |
| 16,450 | Wells Fargo & Company                                | 679,714   |
|        | Total Commercial Banks                               | 4,362,968 |
|        | <b>Commercial Services &amp; Supplies - 0.7%</b>     |           |
| 4,600  | ADT Corporation                                      | 187,036   |
| 19,600 | Cintas Corporation                                   | 1,003,520 |
| 3,500  | Republic Services, Inc.                              | 116,760   |
| 1,400  | Stericycle Inc., (2)                                 | 161,560   |
| 9,300  | Waste Management, Inc.                               | 383,532   |
|        | Total Commercial Services & Supplies                 | 1,852,408 |
|        | <b>Communications Equipment - 0.2%</b>               |           |
| 7,900  | Cisco Systems, Inc.                                  | 185,018   |
| 5,600  | Juniper Networks Inc., (2)                           | 111,216   |
| 3,000  | Motorola Solutions Inc.                              | 178,140   |
|        | Total Communications Equipment                       | 474,374   |
|        | <b>Computers &amp; Peripherals - 2.2%</b>            |           |
| 6,100  | Apple, Inc.  | 2,908,175 |
| 71,500 | Dell Inc.  | 984,555   |
| 19,400 | Hewlett-Packard Company                              | 407,012   |
| 5,200  | NetApp, Inc.   | 221,624   |
| 7,300  | Seagate Technology PLC                               | 319,302   |
| 17,700 | Western Digital Corporation                          | 1,122,180 |
|        | Total Computers & Peripherals                        | 5,962,848 |
|        | <b>Construction &amp; Engineering - 0.2%</b>         |           |
| 8,100  | Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., (2)                  | 471,258   |
|        | <b>Consumer Finance - 1.6%</b>                       |           |
| 12,200 | American Express Company                             | 921,344   |
| 37,800 | Discover Financial Services                          | 1,910,412 |
| 55,000 | SLM Corporation                                      | 1,369,500 |
|        | Total Consumer Finance                               | 4,201,256 |
|        | <b>Containers &amp; Packaging - 0.5%</b>             |           |
| 10,100 | Avery Dennison Corporation                           | 439,552   |
| 9,000  | Bemis Company, Inc.                                  | 351,090   |
| 1,300  | MeadWestvaco Corporation                             | 49,894    |
| 7,300  | Owens-Illinois, Inc., (2)                            | 219,146   |
| 11,300 | Sealed Air Corporation                               | 307,247   |
|        | Total Containers & Packaging                         | 1,366,929 |
|        | <b>Distributors - 0.1%</b>                           |           |
| 1,700  | Genuine Parts Company                                | 137,513   |
|        | <b>Diversified Consumer Services - 0.8%</b>          |           |
| 80,200 | H & R Block Inc.                                     | 2,138,132 |
|        | <b>Diversified Financial Services - 3.2%</b>         |           |
| 1,200  | Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Class B, (2)                | 136,212   |
| 10,600 | Citigroup Inc.                                       | 514,206   |
| 20,500 | CME Group, Inc.                                      | 1,514,540 |
| 2,600  | Intercontinental Exchange, Inc., (2)                 | 471,692   |
| 24,105 | JPMorgan Chase & Co.                                 | 1,245,987 |
| 23,900 | Leucadia National Corporation                        | 651,036   |
| 16,400 | McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.                          | 1,075,676 |
| 26,100 | Moody's Corporation                                  | 1,835,613 |
| 12,500 | NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc.                            | 401,125   |
| 20,400 | New York Stock Exchange Euronext                     | 856,392   |
|        | Total Diversified Financial Services                 | 8,702,479 |
|        | <b>Diversified Telecommunication Services - 0.8%</b> |           |
| 53,000 | AT&T Inc.  | 1,792,460 |
| 4,900  | Verizon Communications Inc.                          | 228,634   |
|        | Total Diversified Telecommunication Services         | 2,021,094 |
|        | <b>Electric Utilities - 1.6%</b>                     |           |
| 2,400  | American Electric Power Company, Inc.                | 104,040   |

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|         |  |            |
|---------|--|------------|
| 39,256  | Duke Energy Corporation                              | 2,621,516  |
| 7,600   | Entergy Corporation                                  | 480,244    |
| 14,100  | Exelon Corporation                                   | 417,924    |
| 4,200   | NextEra Energy Inc.                                  | 336,672    |
| 1,800   | Pinnacle West Capital Corporation                    | 98,532     |
| 6,300   | PPL Corporation                                      | 191,394    |
| 2,900   | Southern Company                                     | 119,422    |
| 1,900   | Xcel Energy Inc.                                     | 52,459     |
|         | Total Electric Utilities                             | 4,422,203  |
|         | <b>Electrical Equipment - 0.8%</b>                   |            |
| 5,200   | AMETEK, Inc.   | 239,304    |
| 15,744  | Eaton PLC  | 1,083,817  |
| 2,400   | Rockwell Automation, Inc.                            | 256,656    |
| 5,200   | Roper Industries Inc.                                | 690,924    |
|         | Total Electrical Equipment                           | 2,270,701  |
|         | <b>Electronic Equipment &amp; Instruments - 0.5%</b> |            |
| 12,300  | Corning Incorporated                                 | 179,457    |
| 34,200  | FLIR Systems Inc.                                    | 1,073,880  |
| 1,000   | TE Connectivity Limited                              | 51,780     |
|         | Total Electronic Equipment & Instruments             | 1,305,117  |
|         | <b>Energy Equipment &amp; Services - 0.0%</b>        |            |
| 1,400   | Helmerich & Payne Inc.                               | 96,530     |
|         | <b>Food &amp; Staples Retailing - 2.2%</b>           |            |
| 800     | Costco Wholesale Corporation                         | 92,096     |
| 2,400   | CVS Caremark Corporation                             | 136,200    |
| 49,500  | Kroger Co.   | 1,996,830  |
| 3,000   | Sysco Corporation                                    | 95,490     |
| 23,700  | Walgreen Co.   | 1,275,060  |
| 29,700  | Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.                                | 2,196,612  |
|         | Total Food & Staples Retailing                       | 5,792,288  |
|         | <b>Food Products - 3.6%</b>                          |            |
| 8,500   | Archer-Daniels-Midland Company                       | 313,140    |
| 20,500  | Campbell Soup Company                                | 834,555    |
| 60,900  | ConAgra Foods, Inc.                                  | 1,847,706  |
| 12,100  | General Mills, Inc.                                  | 579,832    |
| 14,200  | Hershey Foods Corporation                            | 1,313,500  |
| 31,400  | Hormel Foods Corporation                             | 1,322,568  |
| 6,500   | JM Smucker Company                                   | 682,760    |
| 8,500   | Kellogg Company                                      | 499,205    |
| 2,300   | Kraft Foods Inc.                                     | 120,612    |
| 16,100  | McCormick & Company, Incorporated                    | 1,041,670  |
| 3,500   | Mead Johnson Nutrition Company                       | 259,910    |
| 31,800  | Tyson Foods, Inc., Class A                           | 899,304    |
|         | Total Food Products                                  | 9,714,762  |
|         | <b>Health Care Equipment &amp; Supplies - 1.7%</b>   |            |
| 7,900   | Abbott Laboratories                                  | 262,201    |
| 11,300  | Baxter International, Inc.                           | 742,297    |
| 9,900   | Becton, Dickinson and Company                        | 990,198    |
| 134,400 | Boston Scientific Corporation, (2)                   | 1,577,856  |
| 500     | C. R. Bard, Inc.                                     | 57,600     |
| 14,300  | CareFusion Corporation, (2)                          | 527,670    |
| 1,300   | Intuitive Surgical, Inc., (2)                        | 489,151    |
|         | Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies               | 4,646,973  |
|         | <b>Health Care Providers &amp; Services - 3.8%</b>   |            |
| 27,959  | Aetna Inc.   | 1,789,935  |
| 31,300  | AmerisourceBergen Corporation                        | 1,912,430  |
| 1,700   | Cardinal Health, Inc.                                | 88,655     |
| 20,900  | CIGNA Corporation                                    | 1,606,374  |
| 26,800  | Davita Inc., (2)                                     | 1,524,920  |
| 3,900   | Express Scripts Holding Company, (2)                 | 240,942    |
| 2,900   | Humana Inc.  | 270,657    |
| 3,900   | Laboratory Corporation of America Holdings, (2)      | 386,646    |
| 300     | McKesson HBOC Inc.                                   | 38,490     |
| 7,800   | Quest Diagnostics Incorporated                       | 481,962    |
| 3,200   | UnitedHealth Group Incorporated                      | 229,152    |
| 19,200  | Wellpoint Inc.                                       | 1,605,312  |
|         | Total Health Care Providers & Services               | 10,175,475 |
|         | <b>Hotels, Restaurants &amp; Leisure - 0.6%</b>      |            |
| 700     | Chipotle Mexican Grill, (2)                          | 300,090    |
| 2,500   | Darden Restaurants, Inc.                             | 115,725    |

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|        |  |            |
|--------|--|------------|
| 5,300  | McDonald's Corporation   | 509,913    |
| 1,100  | Starbucks Corporation  | 84,667     |
| 6,800  | Wyndham Worldwide Corporation                                  | 414,596    |
| 4,200  | YUM! Brands, Inc.  | 299,838    |
|        | Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure                            | 1,724,829  |
|        | <b>Household Durables - 0.6%</b>                               |            |
| 10,300 | Leggett and Platt Inc.   | 310,545    |
| 45,700 | Newell Rubbermaid Inc.   | 1,256,750  |
| 700    | Whirlpool Corporation  | 102,508    |
|        | Total Household Durables                                       | 1,669,803  |
|        | <b>Household Products - 0.8%</b>                               |            |
| 3,400  | Clorox Company   | 277,848    |
| 13,400 | Colgate-Palmolive Company                                      | 794,620    |
| 7,100  | Kimberly-Clark Corporation                                     | 668,962    |
| 4,100  | Procter & Gamble Company                                       | 309,919    |
|        | Total Household Products                                       | 2,051,349  |
|        | <b>Independent Power Producers &amp; Energy Traders - 0.6%</b> |            |
| 57,600 | NRG Energy Inc.  | 1,574,208  |
|        | <b>Industrial Conglomerates - 0.2%</b>                         |            |
| 900    | 3M Co.   | 107,469    |
| 12,200 | General Electric Company                                       | 291,458    |
|        | Total Industrial Conglomerates                                 | 398,927    |
|        | <b>Insurance - 7.5%</b>  |            |
| 32,700 | AFLAC Incorporated   | 2,027,073  |
| 91,900 | Allstate Corporation   | 4,645,545  |
| 17,300 | AON PLC  | 1,287,812  |
| 32,500 | Assurant Inc.  | 1,758,250  |
| 45,300 | Cincinnati Financial Corporation                               | 2,136,348  |
| 27,800 | Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.                        | 865,136    |
| 8,900  | Lincoln National Corporation                                   | 373,711    |
| 3,000  | Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.                               | 130,650    |
| 9,300  | MetLife, Inc.  | 436,635    |
| 20,000 | Principal Financial Group, Inc.                                | 856,400    |
| 8,200  | Progressive Corporation  | 223,286    |
| 10,400 | Prudential Financial, Inc.                                     | 810,992    |
| 13,750 | Torchmark Corporation  | 994,813    |
| 8,100  | Travelers Companies, Inc.                                      | 686,637    |
| 48,100 | Unum Group   | 1,464,164  |
| 46,900 | XL Group PLC   | 1,445,458  |
|        | Total Insurance  | 20,142,910 |
|        | <b>Internet &amp; Catalog Retail - 0.1%</b>                    |            |
| 4,300  | TripAdvisor, Inc., (2)   | 326,112    |
|        | <b>Internet Software &amp; Services - 2.1%</b>                 |            |
| 9,100  | eBay Inc., (2)   | 507,689    |
| 3,400  | Google Inc., Class A, (2)                                      | 2,978,094  |
| 1,300  | VeriSign, Inc., (2)  | 66,157     |
| 64,500 | Yahoo! Inc., (2)   | 2,138,820  |
|        | Total Internet Software & Services                             | 5,690,760  |
|        | <b>IT Services - 3.2%</b>                                      |            |
| 10,500 | Accenture Limited  | 773,220    |
| 1,600  | Automatic Data Processing, Inc.                                | 115,808    |
| 39,200 | Computer Sciences Corporation                                  | 2,028,208  |
| 31,300 | Fidelity National Information Services                         | 1,453,572  |
| 12,100 | International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)              | 2,240,678  |
| 6,200  | Paychex, Inc.  | 251,968    |
| 9,600  | Visa Inc., Class A   | 1,834,560  |
|        | Total IT Services  | 8,698,014  |
|        | <b>Leisure Equipment &amp; Products - 0.2%</b>                 |            |
| 8,300  | Hasbro, Inc.   | 391,262    |
| 6,300  | Mattel, Inc.   | 263,718    |
|        | Total Leisure Equipment & Products                             | 654,980    |
|        | <b>Life Sciences Tools &amp; Services - 1.0%</b>               |            |
| 16,000 | Life Technologies Corporation, (2)                             | 1,197,280  |
| 15,600 | Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.                                 | 1,437,540  |
|        | Total Life Sciences Tools & Services                           | 2,634,820  |
|        | <b>Machinery - 1.6%</b>  |            |
| 18,900 | Dover Corporation  | 1,697,787  |
| 24,300 | Flowserve Corporation  | 1,516,077  |
| 9,800  | Snap-on Incorporated   | 975,100    |
|        | Total Machinery  | 4,188,964  |

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|         |   |                   |
|---------|---|-------------------|
|         | <b>Media - 9.7%</b>                           |                   |
| 11,100  | CBS Corporation, Class B                      | 612,276           |
| 170,200 | Comcast Corporation, Class A                  | 7,684,530         |
| 8,700   | DirectTV, (2)                                 | 519,825           |
| 13,600  | Discovery Communications, Inc., Class A, (2)  | 1,148,112         |
| 25,800  | Interpublic Group Companies, Inc.             | 443,244           |
| 18,825  | News Corporation, Class A, (2)                | 302,330           |
| 2,100   | Omnicom Group, Inc.                           | 133,224           |
| 15,500  | Scripps Networks Interactive, Inc., Class A   | 1,210,705         |
| 57,100  | The Walt Disney Company                       | 3,682,379         |
| 900     | The Washington Post Company                   | 550,215           |
| 15,800  | Time Warner Cable                             | 1,763,280         |
| 84,800  | Time Warner Inc.                              | 5,580,688         |
| 75,300  | Twenty-First Century Fox, Inc., Class A       | 2,522,550         |
| 400     | Viacom Inc., Class B                          | 33,432            |
|         | <b>Total Media</b>                            | <b>26,186,790</b> |
|         | <b>Multiline Retail - 0.6%</b>                |                   |
| 3,900   | Dollar General Corporation, (2)               | 220,194           |
| 4,800   | Dollar Tree, Inc., (2)                        | 274,368           |
| 28,900  | J.C. Penney Company, Inc., (2)                | 254,898           |
| 1,500   | Kohl's Corporation                            | 77,625            |
| 9,000   | Macy's, Inc.                                  | 389,430           |
| 4,800   | Target Corporation                            | 307,104           |
|         | <b>Total Multiline Retail</b>                 | <b>1,523,619</b>  |
|         | <b>Multi-Utilities - 2.6%</b>                 |                   |
| 15,900  | CMS Energy Corporation                        | 418,488           |
| 3,000   | Consolidated Edison, Inc.                     | 165,420           |
| 15,800  | Dominion Resources, Inc.                      | 987,184           |
| 6,300   | DTE Energy Company                            | 415,674           |
| 1,100   | Integrus Energy Group, Inc.                   | 61,479            |
| 29,900  | NiSource Inc.                                 | 923,611           |
| 4,500   | PG&E Corporation                              | 184,140           |
| 9,700   | Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated  | 319,421           |
| 6,200   | Scana Corporation                             | 285,448           |
| 27,600  | Sempra Energy                                 | 2,362,560         |
| 3,500   | TECO Energy, Inc.                             | 57,890            |
| 22,800  | Wisconsin Energy Corporation                  | 920,664           |
|         | <b>Total Multi-Utilities</b>                  | <b>7,101,979</b>  |
|         | <b>Oil, Gas &amp; Consumable Fuels - 2.8%</b> |                   |
| 29,600  | Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation                   | 1,104,672         |
| 3,500   | Chevron Corporation                           | 425,250           |
| 1,700   | ConocoPhillips                                | 118,167           |
| 7,800   | EQT Corporation                               | 692,016           |
| 1,100   | Exxon Mobil Corporation                       | 94,644            |
| 1,000   | Hess Corporation                              | 77,340            |
| 32,150  | Marathon Petroleum Corporation                | 2,067,888         |
| 7,400   | Murphy Oil Corporation                        | 446,368           |
| 2,100   | Occidental Petroleum Corporation              | 196,434           |
| 1,100   | Range Resources Corporation                   | 83,479            |
| 15,500  | Spectra Energy Corporation                    | 530,565           |
| 21,500  | Tesoro Corporation                            | 945,570           |
| 9,500   | Valero Energy Corporation                     | 324,425           |
| 8,100   | Williams Companies, Inc.                      | 294,516           |
|         | <b>Total Oil, Gas &amp; Consumable Fuels</b>  | <b>7,401,334</b>  |
|         | <b>Personal Products - 0.1%</b>               |                   |
| 9,500   | Avon Products, Inc.                           | 195,700           |
| 1,000   | Estee Lauder Companies Inc., Class A          | 69,900            |
|         | <b>Total Personal Products</b>                | <b>265,600</b>    |
|         | <b>Pharmaceuticals - 3.3%</b>                 |                   |
| 8,200   | AbbVie Inc.                                   | 366,786           |
| 16,500  | Actavis PLC, (2)                              | 2,376,000         |
| 48,000  | Bristol-Myers Squibb Company                  | 2,221,440         |
| 17,000  | Eli Lilly and Company                         | 855,610           |
| 4,100   | Johnson & Johnson                             | 355,429           |
| 18,932  | Merck & Company Inc.                          | 901,352           |
| 34,100  | Mylan Laboratories Inc., (2)                  | 1,301,597         |
| 800     | Perrigo Company                               | 98,704            |
| 2,400   | Pfizer Inc.                                   | 68,904            |
| 9,300   | Zoetis Inc                                    | 289,416           |
|         | <b>Total Pharmaceuticals</b>                  | <b>8,835,238</b>  |



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|         |   |                    |
|---------|---|--------------------|
|         | <b>Professional Services - 1.3%</b>                     |                    |
| 9,900   | Dun and Bradstreet Inc.                                 | 1,028,115          |
| 32,200  | Equifax Inc.  | 1,927,170          |
| 12,700  | Nielsen Holdings NV                                     | 462,915            |
| 3,400   | Robert Half International Inc.                          | 132,702            |
|         | Total Professional Services                             | 3,550,902          |
|         | <b>Real Estate Investment Trust - 1.6%</b>              |                    |
| 6,300   | Apartment Investment & Management Company, Class A      | 176,022            |
| 400     | Health Care REIT, Inc.                                  | 24,952             |
| 6,800   | Public Storage, Inc.                                    | 1,091,740          |
| 8,800   | Simon Property Group, Inc.                              | 1,304,424          |
| 500     | Ventas Inc.   | 30,750             |
| 53,800  | Weyerhaeuser Company                                    | 1,540,294          |
|         | Total Real Estate Investment Trust                      | 4,168,182          |
|         | <b>Road &amp; Rail - 0.1%</b>                           |                    |
| 700     | Kansas City Southern Industries                         | 76,552             |
| 1,300   | Union Pacific Corporation                               | 201,942            |
|         | Total Road & Rail                                       | 278,494            |
|         | <b>Semiconductors &amp; Equipment - 1.1%</b>            |                    |
| 72,500  | Applied Materials, Inc.                                 | 1,271,650          |
| 17,600  | First Solar Inc., (2)                                   | 707,696            |
| 11,900  | Intel Corporation                                       | 272,748            |
| 1,700   | Lam Research Corporation, (2)                           | 87,023             |
| 1,800   | Linear Technology Corporation                           | 71,388             |
| 29,300  | Micron Technology, Inc., (2)                            | 511,871            |
| 600     | Xilinx, Inc.  | 28,116             |
|         | Total Semiconductors & Equipment                        | 2,950,492          |
|         | <b>Software - 1.4%</b>                                  |                    |
| 13,400  | Adobe Systems Incorporated, (2)                         | 695,996            |
| 35,600  | CA Inc.   | 1,056,252          |
| 29,500  | Electronic Arts Inc., (2)                               | 753,725            |
| 27,200  | Microsoft Corporation                                   | 906,032            |
| 15,500  | Symantec Corporation                                    | 383,625            |
|         | Total Software  | 3,795,630          |
|         | <b>Specialty Retail - 8.3%</b>                          |                    |
| 500     | AutoZone, Inc., (2)                                     | 211,365            |
| 2,400   | Bed Bath and Beyond Inc., (2)                           | 185,664            |
| 23,100  | Best Buy Co., Inc.                                      | 866,250            |
| 3,900   | CarMax, Inc., (2)                                       | 189,033            |
| 20,500  | GameStop Corporation                                    | 1,017,825          |
| 37,500  | Gap, Inc.   | 1,510,500          |
| 108,300 | Home Depot, Inc.  | 8,214,555          |
| 4,200   | L Brands Inc.   | 256,620            |
| 12,600  | Lowe's Companies, Inc.                                  | 599,886            |
| 3,400   | O'Reilly Automotive Inc., (2)                           | 433,806            |
| 28,500  | Ross Stores, Inc.                                       | 2,074,800          |
| 2,400   | Tiffany & Co.   | 183,888            |
| 115,600 | TJX Companies, Inc.                                     | 6,518,684          |
|         | Total Specialty Retail                                  | 22,262,876         |
|         | <b>Textiles, Apparel &amp; Luxury Goods - 0.4%</b>      |                    |
| 4,300   | Nike, Inc., Class B                                     | 312,352            |
| 1,200   | PVH Corporation   | 142,428            |
| 3,200   | VF Corporation  | 636,960            |
|         | Total Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods                  | 1,091,740          |
|         | <b>Thrifts &amp; Mortgage Finance - 0.0%</b>            |                    |
| 5,500   | Hudson City Bancorp, Inc.                               | 49,775             |
|         | <b>Tobacco - 1.4%</b>                                   |                    |
| 50,600  | Altria Group, Inc.                                      | 1,738,110          |
| 8,000   | Lorillard Inc.  | 358,240            |
| 12,700  | Philip Morris International                             | 1,099,693          |
| 13,100  | Reynolds American Inc.                                  | 639,018            |
|         | Total Tobacco   | 3,835,061          |
|         | <b>Trading Companies &amp; Distributors - 1.7%</b>      |                    |
| 21,000  | Fastenal Company  | 1,055,250          |
| 13,300  | W.W. Grainger, Inc.                                     | 3,480,743          |
|         | Total Trading Companies & Distributors                  | 4,535,993          |
|         | <b>Wireless Telecommunication Services - 1.4%</b>       |                    |
| 50,100  | Crown Castle International Corporation, (2)             | 3,658,803          |
|         | <b>Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$209,376,862)</b> | <b>265,008,920</b> |

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| Principal Amount (000) | Description (1)  | Coupon | Maturity | Ratings (3) | Value                 |
|------------------------|--|--------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|
| \$ 6,869               | <b>Short-Term Investments - 3.5% Repurchase Agreements - 2.6%</b><br>Repurchase Agreement with State Street Bank, dated 9/30/13, repurchase price \$6,869,149, collateralized by \$6,995,000 U.S. Treasury Notes, 0.875%, due 2/28/17, value \$7,008,815 | 0.000% | 10/01/13 | N/A         | \$ 6,869,149          |
| 2,500                  | <b>U.S. Government and Agency Obligations - 0.9%</b><br>U.S. Treasury Bills, (4)   | 0.010% | 2/13/14  | Aaa         | 2,499,860             |
|                        | <b>Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$9,368,516)</b>   |        |          |             | <b>9,369,009</b>      |
|                        | <b>Total Investments (cost \$218,745,378) - 102.1%</b>   |        |          |             | <b>274,377,929</b>    |
|                        | <b>Other Assets Less Liabilities - (2.1)% (5)</b>  |        |          |             | <b>(5,718,005)</b>    |
|                        | <b>Net Assets - 100%</b>   |        |          |             | <b>\$ 268,659,924</b> |

Investments in Derivatives as of September 30, 2013

Call Options Written outstanding:

| Number of Contracts | Type  | Notional Amount (6)     | Expiration Date | Strike Price | Value (5)             |
|---------------------|---|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| (150)               | Russell 2000® INDEX   | \$ (15,893,261)         | 10/11/13        | \$1,059.5507 | \$ (333,985)          |
| (150)               | Russell 2000® INDEX   | (16,310,850)            | 10/17/13        | 1,087.3900   | (141,376)             |
| (200)               | Russell 2000® INDEX   | (21,712,000)            | 10/21/13        | 1,085.6000   | (236,346)             |
| (200)               | S&P MidCap 400® Index   | (24,500,000)            | 10/07/13        | 1,225.0000   | (472,117)             |
| (260)               | S&P MidCap 400® Index   | (33,923,302)            | 10/28/13        | 1,304.7424   | (41,464)              |
| <b>(960)</b>        | <b>Total Call Options Written (premiums received \$742,193)</b> | <b>\$ (112,339,413)</b> |                 |              | <b>\$ (1,225,288)</b> |

Futures Contracts outstanding:

| Type            | Contract Position | Number of Contracts | Contract Expiration | Notional Amount at Value | Unrealized Appreciation (Depreciation) |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| E-mini S&P 500® | Long              | 60                  | 12/13               | \$ 5,022,900             | \$ (12,330)                            |

**Fair Value Measurements**

Fair value is defined as the price that the Fund would receive 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          |
|------------------------|----------------|---------|---------|----------------|
| Long-Term Investments: |                |         |         |                |
| Common Stocks          | \$ 265,008,920 | \$      | \$      | \$ 265,008,920 |

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|  |                |              |                |
|--|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| Short-Term Investments:                |                |              |                |
| Repurchase Agreements                  |                | 6,869,149    | 6,869,149      |
| U.S. Government and Agency Obligations |                | 2,499,860    | 2,499,860      |
| Derivatives:                           |                |              |                |
| Call Options Written                   |                | (1,225,288)  | (1,225,288)    |
| Futures Contracts*                     |                | (12,330)     | (12,330)       |
| Total                                  | \$ 264,996,590 | \$ 8,143,721 | \$ 273,140,311 |

\* Represents net unrealized appreciation (depreciation).

### Income Tax Information

The following information is presented on an income tax basis. Differences between amounts for financial statement and federal income tax purposes are primarily due to 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 on the Statement of Assets and Liabilities presented in the annual report, based on their federal tax basis treatment; temporary differences do not require reclassification. Temporary and permanent differences do not impact the net asset value of the Fund.

As of September 30, 2013, the cost of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) was \$218,863,859.

Gross unrealized appreciation and gross unrealized depreciation of investments (excluding investments in derivatives) as of September 30, 2013, were as follows:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Gross unrealized:   |               |
| Appreciation  | \$ 57,212,537 |
| Depreciation  | (1,698,467)   |
| Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments | \$ 55,514,070 |

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: 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 the Strike Price by 100.
- N/A Not applicable.

**Item 2. 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 Rule 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (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 registrant's last fiscal quarter that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

**Item 3. Exhibits.**

File as exhibits as part of this Form 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)), exactly as set forth below: EX-99 CERT Attached hereto.

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**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: November 27, 2013

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: November 27, 2013

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

Date: November 27, 2013

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