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Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund Form N-Q November 29, 2018

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 20549

FORM N-O

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)

Gifford R. Zimmerman 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: <u>December 31</u>

Date of reporting period: September 30, 2018

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.

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Item 1. Schedule of Investments

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Nuveen	Nuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund						
	o of Investments September 30, 2018						
(Unaudi	(Unaudited)						
Shares	Description (1)	Value					
	LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS - 98.4%						
	COMMON STOCKS - 98.4%						
	Aerospace & Defense - 7.0%						
16,900	Boeing Co/The	\$6,285,110					
10,500	Harris Corp	1,776,705					
300	L3 Technologies Inc	63,786					
12,800	Northrop Grumman Corp	4,062,336					
14,300	Raytheon Co	2,955,238					
4,100	Rockwell Collins Inc	575,927					
10,800	Textron Inc	771,876					
1,300	TransDigm Group Inc, (2)	483,990					
	Total Aerospace & Defense	16,974,968					
	Air Freight & Logistics - 0.6%						
15,000	CH Robinson Worldwide Inc	1,468,800					
1,000	Expeditors International of Washington Inc	73,530					
	Total Air Freight & Logistics	1,542,330					
	Airlines – 0.4%						
10,900	United Continental Holdings Inc, (2)	970,754					
	Auto Components – 0.1%						
2,700	Aptiv PLC	226,530					
	Banks - 5.8%						
700	BB&T Corp	33,978					
11,000	Citizens Financial Group Inc	424,270					
21,300	Comerica Inc	1,921,260					
86,700	Fifth Third Bancorp, (3)	2,420,664					
55,500	Huntington Bancshares Inc/OH	828,060					
12,900	KeyCorp	256,581					
6,500	M&T Bank Corp	1,069,510					
7,200	People's United Financial Inc	123,264					
9,500	PNC Financial Services Group Inc/The	1,293,805					
	Regions Financial Corp, (3)	2,732,315					
17,800	SunTrust Banks Inc	1,188,862					
2,300	SVB Financial Group, (2)	714,909					
23,200	Zions Bancorporation	1,163,480					
_	Total Banks	14,170,958					
1							

JCENuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued) Portfolio of Investments September 30, 2018 (Unaudited) Shares Description (1) Beverages - 2.6% 25,375 Brown-Forman Corp 21,600 Constellation Brands Inc, Class A Shares 4,657,392 8,000 Monster Beverage Corp, (2) 466,240 400 PepsiCo Inc Total Beverages Biotechnology - 0.3% 6,800 AbbVie Inc Building Products - 0.1% 2,500 AO Smith Corp Capital Markets - 8.9% 4100 Plant Park Late.
Shares Description (1) Value Beverages - 2.6% Shares 1,282,706 25,375 Brown-Forman Corp \$1,282,706 21,600 Constellation Brands Inc, Class A Shares 4,657,392 8,000 Monster Beverage Corp, (2) 466,240 400 PepsiCo Inc 44,720 Total Beverages 6,451,058 Biotechnology - 0.3% 643,144 Building Products - 0.1% 643,144 2,500 AO Smith Corp 133,425 Capital Markets - 8.9% 133,425
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Capital Markets – 8.9%
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4,100 BlackRock Inc 1,932,453
15,600 Cboe Global Markets Inc 1,496,976
8,300 Charles Schwab Corp/The 407,945
21,300 CME Group Inc 3,625,473
24,500 E*TRADE Financial Corp 1,283,555
15,300 Moody's Corp 2,558,160
37,900 Morgan Stanley 1,765,003
5,000 MSCI Inc, Class A Shares 887,050
16,300 Nasdaq Inc 1,398,540
4,800 Northern Trust Corp 490,224
15,200 S&P Global Inc 2,969,928
25,500 T Rowe Price Group Inc 2,784,090
Total Capital Markets 21,599,397
Chemicals – 1.4%
31,400 CF Industries Holdings Inc 1,709,416
11,400 Eastman Chemical Co 1,091,208
1,100 LyondellBasell Industries NV 112,761
16,900 Mosaic Co/The 548,912
Total Chemicals 3,462,297
Commercial Services & Supplies – 1.3%
4,400 Cintas Corp 870,364
7,700 Copart Inc, (2) 396,781
25,900 Republic Services Inc, (3) 1,881,894
Total Commercial Services & Supplies 3,149,039
Communications Equipment – 0.7%
3,900 Cisco Systems Inc 189,735
5,500 F5 Networks Inc, (2) 1,096,810
2,700 Motorola Solutions Inc 351,378
Total Communications Equipment 1,637,923
2

Shares	Description (1)	Value
	Construction & Engineering – 0.2%	
6,900	Fluor Corp	\$ 400,890
	Consumer Finance – 0.5%	
14,700	Discover Financial Services	1,123,815
	Containers & Packaging - 0.0%	
800	Avery Dennison Corp	86,680
	Diversified Telecommunication Services - 0.1%	
14,200	CenturyLink Inc	301,040
	Electric Utilities – 1.8%	
26,600	NextEra Energy Inc	4,458,160
	Electrical Equipment - 0.6%	
18,400	AMETEK Inc	1,455,808
	Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components - 2.1%	
34,800	Amphenol Corp, Class A Shares	3,271,896
4,500	FLIR Systems Inc	276,615
18,500	TE Connectivity Ltd	1,626,705
	Total Electronic Equipment, Instruments & Components	5,175,216
	Energy Equipment & Services - 0.9%	
14,400	Baker Hughes a GE Co	487,152
13,100	Helmerich & Payne Inc	900,887
14,600	National Oilwell Varco Inc	628,968
2,400	TechnipFMC PLC	75,000
	Total Energy Equipment & Services	2,092,007
	Equity Real Estate Investment Trust - 2.9%	
10,000	American Tower Corp	1,453,000
3,900	Apartment Investment & Management Company, Class A	172,107
1,200	Crown Castle International Corp	133,596
10,600	Duke Realty Corp	300,722
500	Equity Residential	33,130
16,900	Extra Space Storage Inc.	1,464,216
11,200	Host Hotels & Resorts Inc.	236,320
1,500	Mid-America Apartment Communities Inc.	150,270
	Prologis Inc, (3)	2,542,125
600	Public Storage, Inc.	120,978
1,500	SBA Communications Corp, (2)	240,945
3,600	UDR Inc.	145,548
3,400	Weyerhaeuser Co	109,718
	Total Equity Real Estate Investment Trust	7,102,675
3		

JCENuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)					
Portfolio of Investments September 30, 2018					
(Unaudited)					
Shares Description (1)	Value				
Food & Staples Retailing – 0.3%					
2,000 Costco Wholesale Corp	\$469,760				
2,300 Sysco Corp	168,475				
Total Food & Staples Retailing	638,235				
Food Products – 0.3%					
4,000 Archer-Daniels-Midland Co	201,080				
2,400 Conagra Brands Inc	81,528				
3,100 Hormel Foods Corp	122,140				
7,100 Tyson Foods Inc, Class A Shares	422,663				
Total Food Products	827,411				
Health Care Equipment & Supplies – 7.9					
10,000 Abbott Laboratories	733,600				
3,300 ABIOMED Inc, (2)	1,484,175				
9,700 Align Technology Inc, (2)	3,794,834				
34,300 Baxter International Inc, (3)	2,644,187				
6,600 Boston Scientific Corp, (2)	254,100				
9,000 Edwards Lifesciences Corp, (2)	1,566,900				
4,600 IDEXX Laboratories Inc, (2)	1,148,436				
12,200 Intuitive Surgical Inc, (2)	7,002,800				
4,600 ResMed Inc	530,564				
600 Stryker Corp	106,608				
400 Varian Medical Systems Inc, (2)	44,772				
Total Health Care Equipment & Supplies	19,310,976				
Health Care Providers & Services – 2.5%	do de la companya de				
1,400 Anthem Inc	383,670				
16,600 Centene Corp, (2)	2,403,348				
600 Cigna Corp	124,950				
7,400 Envision Healthcare Corp, (2)	338,402				
18,200 HCA Inc	2,531,984				
Henry Schein Inc, (2)	59,521				
400 Humana Inc	135,408				
300 Laboratory Corp of America Holdings, (2)					
1,400 Quest Diagnostics Inc	151,074				
Total Health Care Providers & Services	6,180,461				
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure – 2.7%					
21,400 Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc	1,728,692				
23,000 Marriott International Inc/MD	3,036,690				
4,700 McDonald's Corp	786,263				
7,600 Wynn Resorts Ltd	965,656				
Total Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure	6,517,301				
4					

Shares	Description (1)	Value
Silares	Household Durables – 0.3%	varue
17 100	DR Horton Inc, (3)	\$ 721,278
17,100	Independent Power & Renewable Electricity Producers – 0.9%	
36 100	AES Corp/VA	505,400
	NRG Energy Inc	1,585,760
72,700	Total Independent Power & Renewable Electricity Producers	2,091,160
	Industrial Conglomerates – 0.2%	2,071,100
2,300	3M Co	484,633
2,300	Insurance – 2.6%	101,033
14 600	Aflac Inc	687,222
	Allstate Corp/The	1,756,860
	Progressive Corp/The, (3)	3,921,408
33,200	Total Insurance	6,365,490
	Internet & Direct Marketing Retail – 1.6%	0,505,170
900	Expedia Group Inc	117,432
9,800	Netflix Inc, (2)	3,666,474
2,200	TripAdvisor Inc, (2)	112,354
2,200	Total Internet & Direct Marketing Retail	3,896,260
	Internet Software & Services - 0.1%	3,070,200
4,300	Twitter Inc, (2)	122,378
1,500	IT Services - 7.0%	122,370
5,100	Accenture PLC	868,020
-	Akamai Technologies Inc, (2)	1,265,495
	Automatic Data Processing Inc	738,234
	Broadridge Financial Solutions Inc	870,870
3,700	Fidelity National Information Services Inc	403,559
6,500	Fisery Inc, (2)	535,470
1,600	Gartner Inc, (2)	253,600
1,600		203,840
-	Mastercard Inc	4,229,590
-	Paychex Inc	1,104,750
	PayPal Holdings Inc, (2)	2,582,496
	Total System Services Inc	1,994,548
	VeriSign Inc, (2)	2,113,584
-,	Total IT Services	17,164,056
	Life Sciences Tools & Services - 0.1%	, ,
400	Illumina Inc, (2)	146,824
400	Waters Corp, (2)	77,872
-	Total Life Sciences Tools & Services	224,696
5		•

PortFolio of Investments September 30, 2018 (Unaudited) Shares Description (1) Value	JCENu	ween Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)	
Shares Description (1) Value Machinery − 2.4% 10,800 Caterpillar Inc \$1,646,892 16,700 Decre & Co 2,510,511 00 Illinois Tool Works Inc 98,784 20,700 Xylem Inc/NY 1,653,309 Total Machinery 5,909,496 Media − 1.1% 10 17,700 Discovery Inc, (2) \$23,566 8,800 Discovery Inc, Class A, (2) 281,600 8,700 Interpublic Group of Cos Inc/The 176,099 64,600 News Corp, Class A Shares, (3) 852,074 14,400 Twenty-First Century Fox Inc 659,808 5,100 Menty-First Century Fox Inc, Class A Shares 269,808 5,100 Menty-First Century Fox Inc, Class A Shares 236,283 70tal Media 2,284,272 Multiline Retail 2,294,30 Matela & Mining − 0.9% 1,25,790 10,400 Dollar Gree Inc, (2) 2,995,835 10,401 Freeport-McMoRal Inc, (3) 2,284,272 10,001 Tracting, Class A Shares, (3) <td></td> <td>_</td> <td></td>		_	
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Metals & Mining = 0.9% 164,100 Freeport-McMoRan Inc, (3) 2,284,272 Multiline Retail = 2.2% 1,125,790 1,125,790 2,095,835 14,600 Kohl's Corp 1,088,430 2,0600 Macy's Inc 167,468 2,100 Target Corp 185,241 5,378,202 Multi-Utilities = 0.4% 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc 01,038 & Consumable Fuels = 4.7% 1,139,229 1,700 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 260,950 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 15,200 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232 1,200 Solar Corp 1,210,200 1,210,20	5,100	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	·
164,100 Freeport-McMoRan Inc, (3) Multiline Retail – 2.2% 10,300 Dollar General Corp 1,125,790 25,700 Dollar Tree Inc, (2) 2,095,835 14,600 Kohl's Corp 1,088,430 20,600 Macy's Inc 715,438 2,800 Nordstrom Inc 167,468 2,100 Target Corp Total Multiline Retail 5,378,202 Multi-Utilities – 0.4% 17,400 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels – 4.7% 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Ooccidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66			2,729,430
Multiline Retail - 2.2%			
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25,700 Dollar Tree Inc, (2) 2,095,835 14,600 Kohl's Corp 1,088,430 20,600 Macy's Inc 715,438 2,800 Nordstrom Inc 167,468 2,100 Target Corp 185,241 Total Multiline Retail 5,378,202 Multi-Utilities - 0.4% 918,546 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc 918,546 Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 4.7% 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 50,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		Multiline Retail – 2.2%	
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2,800 Nordstrom Inc 167,468 2,100 Target Corp 185,241 Total Multiline Retail 5,378,202 Multi-Utilities - 0.4% 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 4.7% 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	14,600	Kohl's Corp	1,088,430
2,100 Target Corp 185,241 Total Multiline Retail 5,378,202 Multi-Utilities - 0.4% 918,546 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc 918,546 Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 4.7% 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	20,600	Macy's Inc	715,438
Total Multiline Retail Multi-Utilities – 0.4% 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels – 4.7% 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66	2,800	Nordstrom Inc	167,468
Multi-Utilities - 0.4% 17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc 918,546 Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 4.7% 16,900 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	2,100	Target Corp	185,241
17,400 Public Service Enterprise Group Inc 918,546 Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels – 4.7% 16,900 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		Total Multiline Retail	5,378,202
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels - 4.7% 16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232			
16,900 Anadarko Petroleum Corp 1,139,229 1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	17,400	Public Service Enterprise Group Inc	918,546
1,700 Andeavor 260,950 7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels – 4.7%	
7,400 ConocoPhillips 572,760 1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	16,900	Anadarko Petroleum Corp	
1,100 Devon Energy Corp 43,934 17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232			
17,600 Hess Corp 1,259,808 12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	7,400	ConocoPhillips	572,760
12,300 HollyFrontier Corp 859,770 28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	1,100	** *	·
28,600 Marathon Oil Corp 665,808 15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		1	
15,200 Marathon Petroleum Corp 1,215,544 5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	12,300	HollyFrontier Corp	859,770
5,100 Newfield Exploration Co, (2) 147,033 12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	28,600		665,808
12,800 Noble Energy Inc 399,232 6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	15,200		1,215,544
6,200 Occidental Petroleum Corp 509,454 8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		•	·
8,500 ONEOK Inc 576,215 5,600 Phillips 66 631,232		Noble Energy Inc	
5,600 Phillips 66 631,232	6,200	Occidental Petroleum Corp	
•			•
6	5,600	Phillips 66	631,232
U Company of the Comp	6		

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Shares	Description (1)	Value
2 200	Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels (continued)	\$554.005
	Pioneer Natural Resources Co	\$574,827
24,000	Valero Energy Corp	2,730,000
	Total Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	11,585,796
• • • • •	Personal Products – 1.4%	
24,100	Estee Lauder Companies Inc, Class A Shares	3,502,212
• • • • •	Pharmaceuticals – 1.1%	
29,000	Zoetis Inc	2,655,240
4.000	Professional Services – 0.9%	456.604
1,200	Equifax Inc	156,684
5,800		312,968
-	Robert Half International Inc	957,168
5,600	Verisk Analytics Inc, Class A Shares, (2)	675,080
	Total Professional Services	2,101,900
	Real Estate Management & Development – 0.7%	
41,000	CBRE Group Inc, (2)	1,808,100
	Road & Rail – 1.5%	
-	CSX Corp, (3)	2,525,105
9,600	JB Hunt Transport Services Inc	1,141,824
	Total Road & Rail	3,666,929
	Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment – 2.79	
	Advanced Micro Devices Inc, (2)	327,434
	Analog Devices Inc	120,198
	Micron Technology Inc, (2)	3,885,257
	NVIDIA Corp	899,264
12,100	Texas Instruments Inc	1,298,209
	Total Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment	6,530,362
4 000	Software – 4.6%	407 621
4,900	Activision Blizzard Inc	407,631
3,900	Adobe Systems Inc, (2)	1,052,805
5,400	ANSYS Inc, (2)	1,008,072
2,400	Autodesk Inc, (2)	374,664
3,300	CA Inc	145,695
6,300	Citrix Systems Inc	700,308
600	Electronic Arts Inc, (2)	72,294
6,700	Intuit Inc	1,523,580
1,500	Microsoft Corp	171,555
	Red Hat Inc, (2)	3,066,300
17,600	Salesforce.com Inc, (2)	2,798,928
7	Total Software	11,321,832
7		

JCEN	JCENuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)					
Po	rtfolio of Investments September 30, 2018					
(U	naudited)					
Shares	Description (1)	Value				
	Specialty Retail – 2.1%					
900	Advance Auto Parts Inc.	\$151,497				
2,600	AutoZone Inc, (2)	2,016,820				
9,500	Best Buy Co Inc	753,920				
8,800	Foot Locker Inc.	448,624				
2,100	Ross Stores Inc	208,110				
4,000	Tiffany & Co	515,880				
4,000	TJX Cos Inc/The	448,080				
1,800	Tractor Supply Co	163,584				
1,500	Ulta Beauty Inc, (2)	423,180				
	Total Specialty Retail	5,129,695				
	Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals – 1.9%	,				
4,300	Apple Inc	970,682				
30,800	Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co	502,348				
13,700	NetApp Inc	1,176,693				
44,200	Seagate Technology PLC	2,092,870				
	Total Technology Hardware, Storage & Peripherals	4,742,593				
	Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods – 2.9%					
13,600	Michael Kors Holdings Ltd, (2)	932,416				
5,000	NIKE Inc	423,600				
2,800	PVH Corp	404,320				
	Ralph Lauren Corp	605,220				
31,800	Tapestry Inc	1,598,586				
19,600	Under Armour Inc, Class A Shares, (2)	415,912				
19,900	Under Armour Inc, Class C Shares, (2)	387,254				
	VF Corp	2,364,285				
	Total Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods	7,131,593				
	Trading Companies & Distributors – 2.1%					
32,000	Fastenal Co	1,856,640				
-	United Rentals Inc, (2)	1,521,480				
5,000	WW Grainger Inc	1,787,050				
•	Total Trading Companies & Distributors	5,165,170				
	Total Long-Term Investments (cost \$204,421,503)	240,263,817				
8						

Principal Amount (000)	Description (1)	Coupon Maturity	Ratings (4)	Value
, ,	SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS - 3.5%			
	REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS – 2.5%			
	Repurchase Agreement with Fixed Income Clearing Corporation	,		
\$ 6,096	dated 9/28/18, repurchase price \$6,096,769, collateralized by \$5,760,000 U.S. Treasury Bonds, 3.625%, due 2/15/44, value	1.050%	N/A	\$ 6,096,236
	\$6,224,867			
	U.S. GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY OBLIGATIONS - 1.0	0%		
2,500	U.S. Treasury Bills, (3)	0.000% 1/17/19	F1+	2,483,594
	Total Short-Term Investments (cost \$8,580,411)			8,579,830
	Total Investments (cost \$213,001,914) - 101.9%			248,843,647
	Other Assets Less Liabilities – (1.9)% (5)			(4,669,185)
	Net Assets – 100%			\$ 244,174,462

Investments in Derivatives

Futures Contracts

Description		Number of Contracts	•	Notional Amount	Value	Variation Margin Receivable/ (Payable)
S&P 500 E-Mini	Long	30	12/18	\$4,344,441	1\$4,378,500	\$(1,350)

Options Written

Description (6)		Number of Notional Contracts Amount (7)		Exercise Expiration		1_{Volue}
Description (0)	Type	Contracts	Amount (7)	Price	Date	v alue
RUSSELL 2000® Index	Call	(250)	\$(43,500,000)\$1,740	10/19/18	\$(85,000)
Total Options Written (premiums received \$210,491)		(250)	\$(43,500,000)		\$(85,000)
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).

JCENuveen Core Equity Alpha Fund (continued)

Portfolio of Investments September 30, 2018

(Unaudited)

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	\$240,263,817	7\$ —	\$ —	\$240,263,817
Short-Term Investments:				
Repurchase Agreements	_	6,096,236	_	6,096,236
U.S. Government and Agency Obligations	_	2,483,594		2,483,594
Investments in Derivatives:				
Futures Contracts*	34,059	_	_	34,059
Options Written	(85,000)	_	_	(85,000)
Total	\$240,212,876	5\$8,579,830)\$ —	\$248,792,706

^{*}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 and certain options 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.

The tables below present below present the cost and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of the Fund's investment portfolio, as determined on a federal income tax basis, as of September 30, 2018.

For purposes of this disclosure, derivative tax cost is generally the sum of any upfront fees or premiums exchanged and any amounts unrealized for income statement reporting but realized in income and/or capital gains for tax reporting. If a particular derivative category does not disclose any tax unrealized appreciation or depreciation, the change in value of those derivatives have generally been fully realized for tax purposes.

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Tax cost of investments	\$213,001,953
Gross unrealized:	
Appreciation	\$ 40,023,837
Depreciation	(4,182,143)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	of investments \$ 35,841,694
Tax cost of futures contracts	\$34,059
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	of futures contracts —
Tax cost of options written	\$(85,000)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	on option written —
10	

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

- (1) All percentages shown in the Portfolio of Investments are based on net assets.
- (2) Non-income producing; issuer has not declared a dividend within the past twelve months.
- (3) Investment, or portion of investment, has been pledged to collateralized the net payment obligations for investments in derivatives.
 - For financial reporting purposes, the ratings disclosed are the highest of Standard & Poor's Group ("Standard & Poor's"), Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") or Fitch, Inc. ("Fitch") rating. This treatment of split-rated
- (4) securities may differ from that used for other purposes, such as for Fund investment policies. 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.
- Other assets less liabilities includes the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of certain over-the-counter ("OTC") derivatives as well as the OTC cleared and exchange-traded derivatives, when applicable.
- (6) Exchange-traded, unless otherwise noted.
- (7) For disclosure purposes, Notional Amount is calculated by multiplying the Number of Contracts by the Strike Price by 100.

S&PStandard & Poor's

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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.

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/ Gifford R. Zimmerman

Gifford R. Zimmerman Vice President and Secretary

Date: November 29, 2018

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/ Cedric H. Antosiewicz

Cedric H. Antosiewicz

Chief Administrative Officer (principal executive

officer)

Date: November 29, 2018

By (Signature and Title) /s/ Stephen D. Foy

Stephen D. Foy

Vice President and Controller (principal financial

officer)

Date: November 29, 2018