

Wayne Smith joined Rice University's Space Science Facilities as an Electronics Engineer on 1 January 1966.

He served as Program Manager on John Freeman's Suprathermal Ion Detector Experiment (SIDE) which was part of the Apollo Lunar Scientific Experiment Package (ALSEP) on Apollo flights XII, XIV and XV.

He also served as program manager of John Freeman's Space Solar Power Research Program.

Later he served as Program Manager for David Reasoner's Charged Particle Lunar Environment Experiment and Frank Low's Infrared Scanning Radiometer Experiment.

In 1973, he took over the duties of Contracts and Administrative Manager for the Space Physics and Astronomy Department, followed later by additional duties as Contracts and Administrative Manager for the Physics Department. When the two departments (Physics and Space Physics) merged he served as Department Administrator for the newly merged department.

At the end of June 2006, he retired after serving under eight different department chairmen and five university presidents.