The School of Math and Sciences had two Instructor of Mathematics vacancies at the end of the 2013 academic year; one created by the passing of Mr. Guy Nelson and the other by the move of Victoria Ryburn to the Northwest Arkansas area. The two chosen to fill these positions are Dr. Sam Snyder and Ms. Laura Barton.

Ms. Laura Barton comes to us from Louisiana Delta Community College in Monroe, LA where she served as an Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics. She also taught courses at Louisiana Tech University at both the Ruston and Barksdale campuses. Prior to teaching at the collegiate level, she taught for three years at Bastrop (LA) High School.

Ms. Barton received her Master of Science in Mathematics from Louisiana Tech University in 2010. She also holds a Master of Arts in Teaching (2006) and Bachelors in Mathematics (2003) degrees from University of Louisiana Monroe.

At UAM, Ms. Barton will be teaching several freshmen level and developmental mathematics courses. Dr. Morris Bramlett, dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, commented, “Ms. Barton has done an excellent job from the very beginning. She fits in very well with the other faculty in the department. She relates very well with the students. I am sure she will be one of the favorites in the department in the near future.”

Dr. Sam Snyder is certainly a name recognized by many that are familiar with the School of Math and Sciences in the 1990’s when he taught math and physics courses at UAM. Since that time, Dr. Snyder has accumulated a wealth of experience in teaching mathematics and physics at several institutions. Dr. Snyder most recently served as an Adjunct Instructor of Mathematics at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, AR. He has other adjunct mathematics teaching experience from Midland Lutheran College (NE), University of Nebraska, and Metropolitan Community College (NE). He was an Interim Assistant Professor at Wayne State College (NE) where he taught physical science, college physics, university physics, statics, and dynamics, and various other courses. Sam was a Lecturer in Physics and Astronomy at Washburn University (KS) and Instructor of Mathematics at both Emporia State University (KS) and Wichita State University (KS).

Dr. Snyder received a Master of Science in Mathematics from Emporia State University (KS) in 2002. He also holds a Master of Science (1970) in Physics and a Ph.D. (1978) in Physics from the University of Florida. He has Bachelors degrees in both Physics and Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (1969).

At UAM, Dr. Snyder is primarily teaching freshmen level and developmental mathematics courses, but will also teach other courses, possibly even in physics, as the need arises. Dr. Morris Bramlett, dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences commented, “It is great to have an old friend back with us. We knew that we were getting a quality classroom teacher that will go the extra mile for his students. His experience and versatility makes him a valuable faculty member to a small department such as ours.”