UNC SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARY ENGINEERING PROFESSOR DR. HERMAN G. BAITY WAS INTRODUCED BEFORE A SPEECH IN ENGLAND DURING THE 1950S AS “THE MAN WHO HAS DONE THE MOST TO INCREASE THE WORLD’S POPULATION.”

“The audience howled with laughter,” recalls Baity’s son, Bill Baity, “but it is not entirely clear that they got the connection between his efforts to improve water supplies and the great drop in infant mortality.”

Baity, who was UNC’s second sanitary engineering faculty member, was so convinced that clean water was a public health issue worldwide that he fought to keep the department in the School of Public Health in Chapel Hill even when other engineering programs were moved to North Carolina State’s campus in Raleigh when the UNC system was established. While on the faculty, he worked with the state’s health department on clean water issues, and eventually became part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal efforts in the state. the PWa oversaw a public works project funded by the U.S. government.

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Quick—what’s polluting the water?

By Angela Spivey

UNC School of Public Health researchers develop faster, better ways to warn when our waterways pose a danger to people or fish.