

TV pals visit quiz-whiz Chuck

By GEOFF EARLE
Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON — New York's nerds will finally get their revenge when 1960s veterans of the high-school TV quiz show "It's Academic" reunite in the plush Capitol offices of their most successful alumnus: Sen. Charles Schumer.

During the 1967 season, Schumer's James Madison High School team from Brooklyn displayed a dazzling climb on the popular quiz show — making it all the way to the finals, before succumbing to Long Island's Plainview Old Bethpage High.

Forty years later, the former teammates and adversaries will revisit their early achievement along with team captain Schumer.

Those who took on Schumer recall the future senator and Harvard grad's fierce competitive drive. Mark Cannon, a psychiatrist whose Flushing High School lost to Madison in the tournament semifinals, remembers Schumer as being "so good that it intimidated the hell out of us. If it weren't for the intimidation, I think we should have won."

Schumer fondly remembers his appearances on the show. "I have a good mind for trivia," he said. "I would say too much of my brain is filled with the lyrics from '50s and '60s rock and roll songs."

"I read the encyclopedia when I was a little kid — I loved it," he exclaimed. Schumer even remembers the toughest question he was able to nail for a win: What compound causes the pigment in white paint? (Answer: titanium dioxide).

Hillary Clinton, who sometimes overshadows Schumer before the TV cameras these days, never made it on the air



— although she was a member of her Park Ridge, Ill., high school's 1964-65 team.

Fordham professor Dave Glenwick, of victorious Plainview Old Bethpage, wants the reunion to be more than just a celebration of Schumer. "It should be duly noted who was the winning team and who were runner-ups, shall we say," he said.

geoff.earle@nypost.com



SMARTIES: "It's Academic" competitors Hillary Rodham (top photo left) and Chuck Schumer (above center).

"New York Post"

March 5, 2007