

Curious about someone? We are, too.

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A review of the top five names people searched for on the *Tampa Bay Business Journal* website in 2015 shows a pattern of curiosity that crosses personal finance, real estate, philanthropy and retail.

Here is a look at the most-searched people on our website, and some insights into why they bubbled up this year.



Ian Mackechnie leads Amscot Financial from his Westshore area office.

1. Ian Mackechnie, chairman and CEO, Amscot Financial: Drawn to Tampa from the U.K. after reading about the “fastest growing city east of the Mississippi” in the book “Megatrends,” the meritocracy of the United States has always been fascinating to him. Amscot has a bit of a cult following. The company works to bring higher ethical standards to an often tarnished money services industry, its CEO told us in his Executive Profile Oct. 16.

2. Kiran Patel, founder of what became Wellcare, philanthropist: Dr. K, as he is known, maintains a strong following in Tampa Bay, based on our search data for 2015. While he has quietly been working to develop businesses in support of the TiE Tampa Bay chapter, readers are also very curious about his enormous new home and compound, rising slowly in Carrollwood, visible when traveling north on Dale Mabry Highway.

3. Jeff Vinik, chairman and governor, Tampa Bay Lightning: In this issue, Reporter Ashley Gurbal Kritzer looks back on a big year for **Jeff Vinik**. Our readers have continued to show rampant interest in Vinik, and while as much as \$2 billion in development remains in blueprint stage, his own brand has evolved. He spent the year significantly ramping up his presence as a guest speaker and panelist, and became more outgoing, engaging and transparent.

4. Altrichia “A.Lekay” Cook, CEO, Allusions by A.Lekay Swimwear: Cook’s line of swimwear blends high-end patterns and styles with high-waist designs. She won national exposure when pop idol **Nicki Minaj** wore one in a photoshoot for *Cosmopolitan*. In a panel discussion as part of our annual Bizwomen Summit, Cook said millennials have different motivations and are willing to seek skills and schooling they need to succeed.

5. Ben Mallah, principal, Equity Management Partners: In March, Mallah’s firm put a portfolio of five Tampa Bay hotels on the market for \$100 million, including a waterfront property once targeted for a major redevelopment. In October, the Best Western Bay Harbor sold for more than double what Mallah paid for it in 2012 when Oxford Capital Group, based in Chicago, paid \$34.5 million for the 261-room hotel on 6.69 acres.

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